THE TABLOID Good news about bad moods



THE TABLOID Fashion: why size doesn't matter

NEWS

Tufnell: 'I didn't smoke cannabis' PAGE 2





Ms S, forcibly cut open to deliver her baby: the doctor's dilemma

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The conflict between the rights of a mother and her unborn child will be scrutinised in a test case likely to become a cause célèbre over the rights of pregnant women to choose to refuse

The case spotlights the dilemma faced by doctors when women refuse treatment, which has led to a growing trend of judges forcing mothers to undergo unwanted Caesarean operations,

The planned judicial review by a 29-year-old south London voman follows a decision by a social worker to section her un-der the 1983 Mental Health Act because of her refusal to accept treatment for pre-eclampsia, a condition involving high blood

from a mental to a general hospital, doctors secured an emergo-ahead for treatment, including a Caesarean, without the patient - identifiable only as Ms

The operation was carried out several hours later when the woman, who was 36 weeks pregnant, gave birth to a daughter, now aged 10 months.

The woman's experience is the latest instance of judges authorising Caesarcans against a patient's will, provoking growing anxiety among groups pro-moting improved care and choice in childbirth.

She said outside the High Court: "I was prepared to take the risk that both of us would die for principles I feel very strongly about. It is a matter of can use underhand means to force patients to have treatment

which they have quite clearly stated they don't wish to have." Ms S is seeking permission for a review, claiming that a London Borough of Merton social worker, Louize Collins, wrongfully applied to two doctors under the Act for her admission to a mental hospital, tained by the National Health Service trusts running Springfield Hospital and St George's

a mental health trihunal. She also claims that she is the vic-

tim of sex discrimination. Ms Collins had been contacted by a local GP after Ms S refused treatment for preeclampsia, which can require an urgent Caesarean in very severe cases, although he warned her that she was risking her own death and that of the unborn child. Ms Collins said in her re-port, extracts of which were read to the court yesterday, that Ms S "had little interest in her own survival and certainly none

in the survival of the haby". She also talked of punishing her former partner, with whom she no longer had a relationship, and said that she hoped he would feel guilty if she died. When told that she and the baby would probably die, she had said, "so be it". She had indicated more than once that "a dead haby would be a solution court was told.

While the judge, Mr Justice Stuart White, adjourned the case yesterday, it is expected to

Judy Crompton, secretary of the feminist's professional group Positive Care in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said: There seems to be a view that if a woman is pregnant that gives other people rights over her person and her body.

British courts have fought shy of expressly suggesting that the rights of the unborn child should override those of the mother, but they have in effect treated them as at least equal. The theme running through a series of rulings, heginning in 1992, is that a woman has no right to take herself or her unborn child to destruction by refusing consent for a Caesarean, although the operation itself carries risks.

Ms S specifically indicated her opposition to intervention in writing, expressly told the hos-pital authorities that she wanted to challenge her detention and had asked for the court order to be faxed to a solicitor. Had she secured access to a lawyer she could have applied for a writ of habeas corpus.

Leading article, page 13

Top tax inspector found guilty of taking bribes

Graham Ball

Michael Allcock, the mayerick Inland Revenue investigator. was found guilty of taking bribes on a hreathtaking scale" by an Old Bailey court yesterday.

Allcock rose to become one of the country's top tax inspectors but over a five-year period he hanked more than £150,000 in cash as hribes, mostly from Middle Eastern husinessmen. In a trial that lasted four

months the Old Bailey jury was told that the former section leader from the clite SO2 tax investigation office in London - which recovered an estimated £100m in unpaid taxes hetween 1989 and 1992 - became a law unto himself.

John Black, for the prosecu-

ero husinessmen hased in London. They bought him off and in exchange he enabled them to avoid investigation into their tax

After his arrest in 1992 police raided Allcock's home in Colchester, Essex, and searched for details of his financial transactions over the preceding five years. They discovered that he had 11 hank accounts and six credit cards. They found that over this period he paid off £57.807 in credit card debt and that a further £91,390 was paid into his bank accounts.

took hribes on a scale which was to live a lifestyle well above that quite hreathtaking, from extremely wealthy Middle East-salary of £45,000. The court

Frequently, the court was told the cash was paid in the form of £50 notes. Jurors were told that this money allowed him

heard of his taste for fine wines and Jaguar cars and of how he told colleagues that legacies from his wife's relatives had

funded his free-spending habits. Allcock. 47, denied 11 charges of corruption hut after deliberating for seven days the jury found him guilty of seven. In addition to accepting the cash hribes. Allcock was also found guilty of corruptly accepting the services of a prostitute, Michelle Corrigan.

In his defence, Allcock had told the court that the hlonde escort girl had become a shoul-'der to cry on when his wife became ill with hreast cancer. His counsel, Anthony Arlidge QC, described the rela-

tionship between Allcock and Miss Corrigan as similar to the one in the Pretty Woman film. Allcock claimed that the affair developed from one of

client and prostitute to one

where he was able to refer to the ex-model as his "soulmate". Hishan Alwan, 56, an Iragiborn oil trade consultant from Knightshridge in central London, was found guilty with Allcock on a charge of providing the services of a prostitute.

Allcock was also found guilty of accepting a £22,000 all-expenses-paid holiday from an American businessman, Ara Oztemel, who was investigated by Allcock's team and found to be liable for £2m back-tax.

Mr Black told the court: "His arrogance was such that in 1992 he went on a holiday with



his family, the accommodation and general expenses paid in the way of hribes."

The holiday involved a cruise

New York's Plaza Hotel and flights on Concorde.

Following the scandal of the Allcock case, the Inland Revenue has revised the way it operates and the old special office functions have been absorbed hy a new Inland Revenue Special Compliance Office, which employs 420 staff in offices in London and the regions and tax settlements involving millionaire businessmen are now subject to closer scrutiny.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "We are investigating disciplinary proceedings against several in-spectors. We had to wait for the outcome of this case before taking matters further."

Allcock and Alwan will return to the court today for sentenc-

has no intention of stationing

forces on the territory of its new

Diplomats last night re-

sponded positively to Ms Al-hright's suggestion. A Russian airborne hrigade of 1,500 troops has been deployed in northern

Bosnia for more than a year,

and has been working under the control of the US headquarters

in Tuzla. In November last year

Russian and US troops worked

together to prevent a large

scale incursion into Serh terri-

Nato sources said a joint

Nato-Russian force would not

be out of the question. There

are, however, problems caused

by the different ways Russian

and Nato units are organised.

Ms Albright was due to arrive

in London last night. But the

toughest part of the European

memher states in the East.

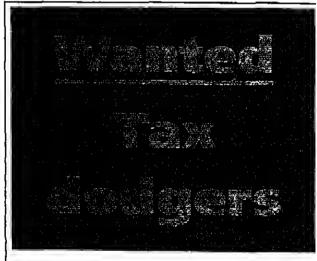
Victim's prowlers
The foster parents of Billie-Jo
Jenkins, the teenager who was
murdered in her back garden,
revealed yesterday that they had been trying to move home because of concerns about prowlers prior to the

Kacism row Andre Markeraaff, South Africa's national rugby coach, resigned last night following the hroadcasting of a tape on national television in which he apparently called black rugby officials and politicians "fucking Kafirs".

Nursery standards

Nearly half private and voluntary nurseries fail to reach government standards in some way, says an inspectors' report published yesterday. The findings of the first official audit of private nurseries provoked a political row, with Labour asking why only two private nurseries had been refused money under the Government's nursery voucher scheme.

Channel 5 news Britain's new Channel 5 will rely on nightly films, a new-style soap opera and American imports, it was announced.



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91 Tories revolt against gun curb

Fran Abrams and Colin Brown

More than 90 Tory MPs voted against the Government last night in the higgest revolt in this parliament. The rehellion against plans to crack down on handgun ownership was unsuccessful because ministers had the support of Labour.

Five former Cahinet ministers voted against the Government. John Redwood, Michael Jopling. John MacGregor. John Biffen and Tom King joined the Tory rubels and seven Liberal Democrats, 12 Labour MPs and three Ulster Unionists. The Government won by 394 votes to 115 after winning the backing of the Labour leadership, despite the fact that 91 Tories voted against it.

In a debate on the Firearms Amendment Bill, introduced after the Dunblane massacre, the

Home Secretary, Michael Howard, had to rely on Opposition support to reverse changes made after a rebellion hy the gun lobby in the Lords.

Peers voted earlier this month to allow owners of .22 weapons to keep their guns at home rather than in clubs so long as they were "disassem-hled" in advance. Under the Lords' amendment, only certain parts of the guns would have had to be kept in the clubs.

The change was one of three forced through by pro-shooting peers. The other two extend compensation for gun dealers forced out of husiness as a result of the law and pay compensation for gun clubs that are forced to close. A fourth defeat by peers, that the Bill should require the creation of a police national computer register of firearms licences, has already been accepted by ministers.

Plan for Nato-Russia force

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent Sarah Helm

Nato and Russia should form a joint military hrigade, the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Nato foreign ministers yesterday.

The proposal is the firmest expression yet of a determination to make Russia feel it has a special relationship with the West and allay fears about Nato enlargement. But it also shows that the strident attacks on the alliance's enlargement in Moscow are finding their mark. The Secretary of State em-

phasised Nato's determination to take in new members from Eastern and Central Europe as as soon as possible. She asserted: "Russia will have a voice but Russia will not have a veto." Since the end of the Cold War, a special relationship be-

tween Nato and Russia, known

tain the idea of a Russian veto over Nato decision-making. Ms Alhright suggested troops from one or more of Nato's 16 nations, and from

Russia, should live, work and possibly fight together in a single, multinational brigade. It is a radical suggestion, intended to dispel suspicions in Moscow that Nato is a hostile organisation. "I would hope that it would eventually have a genuine purpose ... and not he a show-

case kind of a thing," she said. Ms Alhright's suggestion and a proposal for a Nato-Russian accord are part of a strategy to woo Russia before the Madrid summit in July, hut neither looks particularly convincing. Although the US is determined to push Nato expansion for-

pean countries and last week

ward, the obstacles remain real. Russian officials have reacted strongly to Nato's plans to expand to embrace East Euro-

But Nato has refused to enter- Nato's Secretary-General. Javier Solana, as he toured the former Soviet republies of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
But opposition is also build-

ing from other quarters, with press comment in the US and Europe increasingly hostile to the idea. It is clear Ms Albright faces an uphill struggle. In her first speech to Nato since her appointment as Sec-retary of State, she said Nato's

vision of a joint Nato-Russia council "would promote a regular dialogue on majority security issues, reach concerted decisions whenever possible, and seize opportunities for joint action". Mr Solana said he hoped Russia and the alliance could seal a new relationship at a special summit ahead of the Madrid summit.

Nato also agrees to Russian demands for changes in the negotiating terms of the conventional arms treaty (CFE), to reassure the Russia that Nato

leg of her trip comes on Thursday, when she flies to Moscow.

Six problems, page 10 Letters, page 13 Portrait, page 14

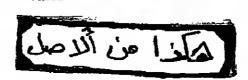
THE BROADSHEET

Letters13

as "16 plus one", has evolved. mounted a war of words against

Arts6,7 Crossword30 Finance18

Travel24 TV & Radio31,32



significant shorts

Death of hospital doctor sparks Aids scare

The sudden death of a junior doctor working at a Devon hospital prompted an Aids scare yesterday. The Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust confirmed the doctor died last week. "As far as the Trust is aware, the cause of death has not been established," a statement said.

The Exeter coroner's officer said a post mortem examination had been carried out on the doctor, who joined the staff on 5 February, but the cause of death was unknown. The Trust would make no comment about speculation that the doctor may have been infected by the HTV virus.

However, Exeter's prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate. Dr Adrian Rogers, himself a GP, said he had been told that a doctor from overseas had died "and is likely to be HIV positive". Dr Rogers said yesterday that the source of his information was a medical one, and though uncorroborated, was highly likely to be accurate".

"The local hospital has confirmed only his tragic death, but patients are heing informed," said Dr Rogers. He added that he had written to the Secretary of State for health suggesting that if the death was from the HIV virus or Aids, it would be sensible for all doctors arriving in this country from Aids-prevalent areas to be

Grobbelaar 'no chance' with goals

Goalkeeping supremo Boh Wilson yesterday told a court hearing match-fixing allegations that there was not the "slightest hint" that Bruce Grobbelaar had behaved improperly or suspiciously in Liverpool and Southampton games he had studied. He also said he had seen nothing unloward in 19 videos featuring the former Wimbledon keeper Hans Segers.

Mr Wilson, the ex-Arsenal and Scotland keeper and trainer of

England's top goalkeeper David Seaman, explained goalkeeping techniques and talked the Winchester Crown Court jury through goalmouth incidents in five soccer matches involving Mr

He said Mr Grobbelaar had no chance with any of the goals pu past him in Liverpool's 3-0 defeat at Newcastle in November, 1993 or their 3-3 draw with Manchester United the following January

Gardiner loses High Court battle



Sir George Gardiner lost his legal battle to remain an MP yesterday when a senior High Court judge ruled that his local constituency association did have the right to de-select him. The MP was seeking a declaration that Reigate Conservatives had no power to vote to oust him and their decision was therefore void. He also wanted an injunction restraining the association from adopting a new prospective

Conservative candidate for the Surrey constituency. But Sir Richard Scott, the vice chairman, said there was nothing in the rules of the constituency association which harred them from the de-selection process at a general meeting.

"There is no contractual right of a prospective candidate precluding the association from de-selecting him and selecting someone who has become a more desirable candidate. The rules of the association are part of the democratic process to put an MP into Parliament. The notion that a candidate has contractual rights is to my mind unacceptable," he said.

Muddle led to soldiers' deaths

Muddle and errors led to two British soldiers being killed by an artillery blast during a training exercise in Canada nearly three years ago, an inquest was told yesterday. The Derby court heard that the men's trench took a direct him from a 155 shell. Royal Lancers corporal Robert Hawkesley, 29, from Toton near

Nottingham, received head injuries, and 25-year-old Corporal Martin Bailey from Devon suffered fatal blast injuries at the training site in Alberta in June 1994.

The men's families were in court to hear evidence that they died almost immediately. A military police investigation uncovered a series of mistakes, including misunderstandings over gun patterns, inaccurate orientation and contradictory regulations, the inquest

Thames to stay a working river

The dwindling number of working Thames wharves in London were yesterday protected from development by Government, in an attempt to keep the river functioning as a transport artery and stop them all being turoed into office blocks and flats.

Councils whose borders include the 32 specified wharves from Hammersmith in the west to Newham in the east must consider the need for protecting these wharves when they draw up their development plans. They must refer any proposals for alteroative development on them to the Secretary of State for the Environment

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Lifetime of leughter: Bernard Cribbins end Sir Harry Secombe at St Paul's Church, Covent. Garden, after a memorial service for the late actress Beryl Reid (Photograph: David Chesian)

Smoke is without fire, says cricketer facing drug claim

Zealand talevision last night. While Daniel Vettori, 18, was the toast of the country for his monumental efforts in trying to win the Christchurch Test for the Kiwis, Phil Tufnell was In the news for alleged off-thefield activities,

Almost immediately after receiving a jeroboam of bub-bly for winning Test Match Special's Champagne Mo-ment for his run out on Saturday, Turnell was publicly defending himself against suggestions that he had been asked to leave Bardelli's, a city-centre restaurant, the previous evening, after being caught smoking an illegal substance in a disabled lavatory.

The England tour manager, John Barclay, yesterday

backed the cricketer, saying: "I am well aware of the al-legations made about Phil Tufnell, and I would add that they are very serious allegations. "I have spoken to Phil at length, and very frankly, and

I am completely satisfied with his assurances to me that these allegations are without foundation."

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the English Cricket Board confirmed that, as far as the board was concerned, Phil

Turnell would not be facing any action over the claims. "Phil has categorically denied the allegations. I assume there is some mischlef making going on," he added. But Janelle Rossiter, who works at Bardelli's, said: "We had to do something about it when someone was smok-

ing a joint in the one of the toilets. *Ona of our staff managers followed him and waited outside. He was then asked to leave, and the three of

them did so after paying their bill.
"They had been drinking and laughing but when he left he was clearly not happy about things and he did dramatic hows all the way to the door.

"That meant the whole restaurant area became aware of what was happening. An English family apologlsed for him and said he was not representative of England. I feel a bit sorry for him, but ha was being a

Tufnell, who was not required to bat in England's fourwicket victory, made light of the affair, saying: "I find it extraordinary. It makes me laugh, it's ridiculous, mate. I'm probably going for a few beers tonight - I'm looking forward to it."

Gandhi dynasty's hopes wrapped in Nehru's gown

Priyanka Gandhl, 25 (right), is the ona to watch in the latest generation of India'a most powerful dynasty. She got married last night, wrapped in tha sama pale pink cotton sari that Jawharlal Nehru spun by hand for his daughtar. Indira, to wear on her wedding day.

Neither marriage ceremony was as ordinary and unpreposessing as the simple cloth. This time, tha bride had elite Black Cat commandos in attendance, because she is both the granddaughter and daughter of assassinated prima ministers and, by government decree, must be guarded round the clock by men with guns. The bodyguards had been a constant throughout her unlikely aix-vear romance with her new husband, Robert Vadra, 28, a costume jeweller and avid disco dancer from the New Delhi'a mlddle class suburbs.

Thia was not an arranged marnage, with an eye to alliance or advantage. In fact, Vadra - described as e plump "puppy" or Punjabi urban professional- has



ffled onlookers who had hoped that she might show more political savvy in her salection.

Deliberately, Priyanka has kept a low profila since har father's 1991 assassination, but many Indians still see her as e reincarnation of the young Indira, and hoped aha might fulfil her political destiny. The floundering Congress Party could use someone with her pedigree, and she now is old enough to be an official candidate. But no one knows whether she intends to use her politicel birthright, or if she sees herself as a modern memsahib, in charge of her husband's house.

Jan McGirk, New Delhi

Daughter claims Maxwell was murdered

Robert Maxwell's youngest child, Ghislaine, believes her father was murdered. The 35-year-old businesswoman has refused to talk publicly about har father's mysterious death, five years ago, but has now given an interview to Hello!

"Ha did not commit suicide. That was just not consistent with his character," sha said. "I think he was murdered.

Her father died after plunging from his yacht off the Canaries named Lady Ghislaine in her honour. According to pathologists, his body was found floating, which was inconsistent with drowning.

Ms Maxwell said: "He did not commit suicide because he didn't drown. There is no evidence of suicide. It was not unhelpful to certain parties that the suicida theory was put about, because it meant his insurance policy would be in dispute. Ms Maxwall, who now lives in New York, also said she was still

grieving for the loss of her father.

sha said.

"I am definitely prone to tears,"

briefing

MoD spells out forces' rol in the new world order

For the first time ever the Ministry of Defence has set uut wh means by war, armed conflict and security, and what the arme forces are actually for. The Secretary of State for Defence, M Portillo, yesterday launched Britain's new, unified "Defence Doctrine". The timing of the launch was clearly designed to p empt Labour's call for a "strategic defence review" if it wins t

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, who oversaw the creation of the historic book. described it as "overarching, governing the principles by whic business is conducted and how it is conducted".

He said that during the Cold War, when the purpose of the armed forces was preity clear, there had been little need for s document, but this had changed, now that the world was a mi

more disorganised place.

British Defence Doctrine, MoD, £9.50. Available from the Ro United Services Institute, London SWL4 2ET. Christopher Be

POLITICS

Parties accused of ignoring wom

Most women believe they are ignored by the main political particles a poll published yesterday. Almost seven out of a women feel the main parties do not pay sufficient attention to things that are important to them, even though they make up than half the electorate and a significant proportion of the la

The Equal Opportunities Commission wants parties to sta taking notice of women's views and has drawn up a "Nationa Agenda for Action" in an effort to influence their manifestos

The NOP poll found that women in part-time employment those were widowed, divorced or separated were most unhapp the core voting group of 25-54 year olds, 75 per cent said they not feel women's issues were given chough attention.

ENVIRONMENT

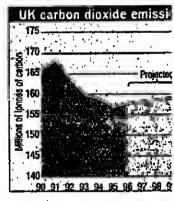
UK meets Rio targets on emissic

Britain is set to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by up 10 8 pc between 1990 and 2000, thereby keeping its promises made at 1992 Rio Earth Summit, John Gummer, the Secretary of Stat the Environment reported yesterday. Industrialised nations committed themselves at Rio to stabilising annual emissions I carbon dioxide - the most important climate-changing pollut; at the 1990 level by the year 2000. The gas is produced mainly burning fossil fuels.

Britain is one of very few developed countries which will ac cut emissions. Others, including the USA, Canada and Austra look set to hreak their promise and increase their output of ca dioxide over the decade. Britain's success is mainly due to the drastic slump in the use of coal to generate electricity and its replacement by gas which produces much less carbon dioxide Mr Gummer is urging industrialised countries to commit

themselves to cut emissions by between 5 and 10 per cent between 2000 and 2010. Last year, UK carbon dioxide emissions actually rose slightly, according to the latest statistics, because gas consumption rocketed by 17 per cent and oil by 2 per cent. So while Britain does seem set to keep its international promise come the year 2000, the trend then is likely to be upwards.

Climate Change, UK HMSO. Nicholas Schoon



AGRICULTURE

Spies in the sky foil farm fraud

Satellite photographs of farm fields were used to uncover fraudulent claims by a farmer who falsely demanded money growing oilseed rape under the Enropean Common Agriculta Policy, the National Audit Office told MPs to a report. The sa images showed that the field contained peas instead of oilsee rape, which earn less from the CAP, and after a site check, th farmer's claims were reduced from £43,700 to £27,300 - a sav £16,400.

In another case, a farmer applied for oilseed subsidy on 78 bectares of land but he bad also claimed for a different crop seven bectares of the same land. The Ministry decided not to prosecute because the fine would be minimal, but recovered ! grant of £15,733.

There were 7,220 cases where farmers' claims were reduce rejected after spot checks. These include the case of two brot who filed a joint claim for sheep annual premium for 100 ani but inspection showed they owned only 18 sheep. They were prosecuted and fined £3,000.

The checks on the beef special premium scheme cost over but uncovered irregularities valued at £463,500. Colin



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Murdered girl's family feared prowler

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

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world order

The foster parents of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the teenager who was murdered in her back garden, revealed yesterday that they had been trying to move home because of concerns about

prowlers prior to the attack. Sion and Lois Jenkins also disclosed that their 10-yearold daughter was the first to dis-

who was bludgeoned to death on Saturday while painting a patio door at her home in Hastings, East Sussex

Meanwhile, police yesterday released into the care of a local health trust a 44-year-old local man who they had been questioning about the murder. Police are also investigating reports from Billie-Jo's school-friends that she feared she was

being followed by a man ing into their home; also the family, we have felt uneasy shortly before her death. homse next door was hurgled, about prowlers. At a press conference yes-

terday the couple, who became Billie-Jo's legal guardians after fostering her for four years, said they had been plagued with prowlers and ouisance calls and had felt a "sense of unease" since January.

Neighbours had reported to the police a person standing on the Jenkins' window ledge look-

house next door was hurgled, and men were seen loitering in the acarby park.

Mr Jenkins, a deputy head-

master, said they had moved from east London to give their children a better quality of life. He said: "We moved to the

house because of the park and because of the children. But January has been a very strange

about prowlers.

"On one occasion I was looking out of the back window and I thought I saw movement. I switched on the outside security light and got a fleeting glimpse of somebody moving about. Another time I saw somebody in the park staring at

"The problem is we live directly opposite the park en-

trance and there are always a lot of people coming and going. But we had decided to put the house on the market and were looking at a house in the old area of Hastings.

Mrs Jenkins, a social services project manager, said: "We had decided to move house because of the problems in the area." The Jenkins did not contact the police about the recent

prowlers and telephone calls.

Lottie, 10, was the first to discover Billie-Jo's body when she, her father and her 12year-old sister, Annie, returned from a music lesson 40 minutes after leaving their foster sister painting the patio doors. She had been beaten over the head

several times with an 18-inch metal tent spike. Mr Jenkins said: "Annie and Lottie are clearly very upset.

Billie-Jo wheo we returned and for that day and the day after she was totally distraught.

He said that his younger daughters Myra, seven, and Esther, nine, had not really taken in what had gone on.

Both foster parents have spo-ken to Billie-Jo's natural mother Debbie Wood and her father William Jenkins, who are being counselled by police in London.

The case of the taxman, the prostitute and the rich men's bungs

The long trial of Michael Allcock, the most senior Inland Revenue official ever coovicted for corruptioo in a British court, has cast a shaft of light into one of Whitehall's darkest corner Even within the traditionally closed con-

fines of the civil service, the Inland Revenue has been the most reticent to discuss its working custom and practice.

Whenever challenged to reveal the simplest detail of the techniques employed to select and investigate tax defaulters, they have always withdrawn in silence behind their abiding principle of "taxpayer confi-

But for three mooths the jury at the Old Bailey has been made privy to some of the Government's most closely gnarded secrets concerning the clandestine methods used to catch tax-dogers.

Evidence presented to the court revealed that deals were regularly struck between the taxmen and wealthy individuals, who often owed millions in unpaid taxes, but subsequently paid much less after supplying "useful" information on others.

It became clear that a distinct "culture" prevalled among the élite corps et inspec tors who staffed the 12 Special Offices (SOs) first set up in 1974 to tackle tax evasion by

employing uncooventional methods.
Michael Allcock, 47, joined the SO team
in 1983 from an unpromising backwater income tax office in Colchester, Essex. He begao his career in 1966, straight from school with only a handful of 'O'-levels. After a while he began to make a name for himself

as a diligent, if unorthodox, investigator. One inquiry led to the home of a local prostitute where Allcock quizzed her husband. He demanded to know what the man did when his wife eotertained "gentleman callers". "I go to the shed," he replied. "Let me see it," said Allcock. Inside, the taxman discovered that the husband kept an appointments diary of his wife's clients. That was evidence enough for Allcock to serve them with a joint demand for income tax.

He told the court that years later, as head of the task-force nicknamed the Ghostbusters, because they inquired into "spooks" - wealthy foreigners who claimed con-resident status and admitted no tax liability here - he sanctioned a highly speculative here in the sanction of trading rules in the sanction of the sanction of the sanction of trading rules in the sanction of the sanction of trading rules in the sa



■ If you don't ask you won't get, was the philosophy Allcock brought with him 9

approach to the offices of the Royal Borough of Kensingtoo and Chelsea. Inland Revenue investigators asked the

permits. Allcock knew that the local authority was under no obligation to comply with the cheeky request. But it did. "If you don't ask, you won't get," was the philosophy Allcock brought with him when

he first began work at the anonymous of-fice building off Borough High Street, Southwark, that housed the SO2 operation. "I was shown to a room where there was a desk and a telephone and told to get on with it, "he said. "I was told we were the

last line of defence. If we did not collect tax It was in this climate that the Inland Rev-

from these individuals, no one would."

the City of London, a series of press stories alleged that a growing number of City brokers and dealers were making millions from insider deals with the undeclared profits being sinhoned off into offshore "brass

Allcock used a friend of his wife, who he knew worked in the Exchange, to arrange an informal invitation. Without declaring his professional interest, he weot out to lunch with his new friends and what he learnt startled him. Later, he told colleagues: "I was gobsmacked. There was one guy there saying I had a bad morning, I only made £60,000 for my Jersey company. I could not believe what I was hearing.

Allcock pursued his new contacts in the City in a way no tax inspector had ever before. His arrival oo the scene met a need The Stock Market's insider-dealing team was under growing pressure to clean up some of the market's most potentially embarrassing cheats, and on as many as 50 previous occasions their own investigators had drawn a blank when the trail they were following led to offshore tax bavens.

Allcock arrived at the Exchange complete with a Section 20 notice, which officially gave him the power to demand the production of share-dealing information. The Stock Fx change indicated the dealers thought to be most guilty of insider dealing, and sat back. The Inland Revenue men did the rest - trying to get their hands on undeclared capital gains of cash shipped quietly out to offshore tax havens. If brokers and dealers refused to name the beneficial owners of town hall to supply a list of names of all the offshore companies where they de-those who qualified for resident's parking posited the share dealing profits, he threatthe offshore companies where they deened to make dealers personally liable for the unpaid tax. He got results.

Allcock's Stock Exchange work was to undo him. John Black, for the prosecution at his trial, said: "He was gradually corrupted by the huge wealth he saw before him." Things were also going wrong in his pri-

vate life - his wife had a malignant breast tumour, and he had started a sexual relationship with an escort girl-but he was still bringing in millions for the Exchequer. There were no special rules or guidelines restricting the way the SO investigators should set about their business and for All-



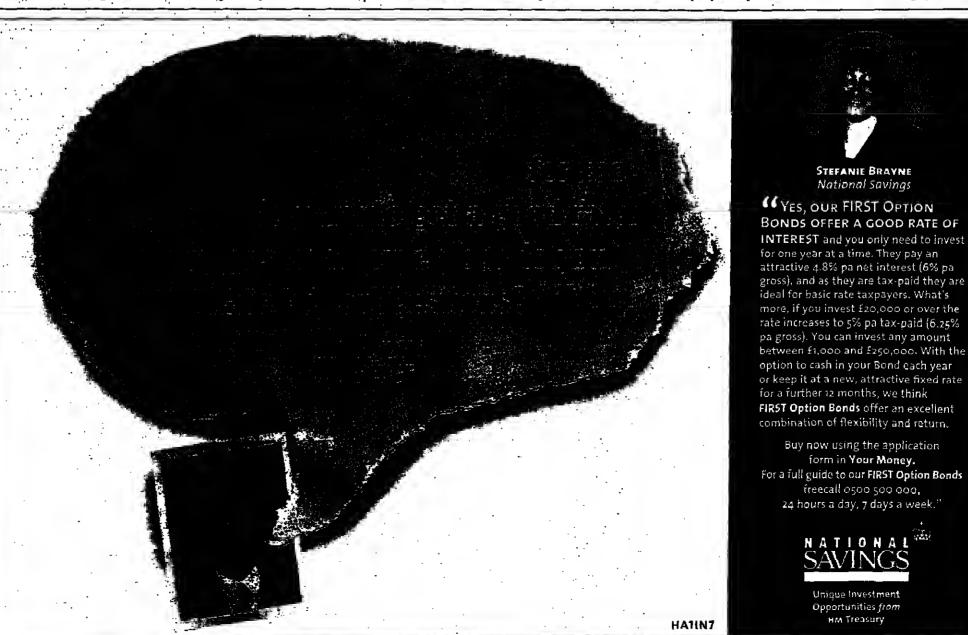
Black beauty: Hopes are high for a rare. black swan wedding in Surrey, writes black swan died in the tiny settlement

been found for its grieving female (above). And not before time, as the bereaved mate has spent the past year disturbing the rural peace with her mournful cries. Two people responded

to a plea on the radio by its owner, Sue McIntosh, for male black swans - a rare match considering there are less than 20 black swans in the wild in the UK. Photograph: David Rose



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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Blair kept his questions on privatisation specific, thus pointing up Major's unwillingness to answer.

For the most part, Major responded to Bleir's ques-Major tions only by accusing Labour of greater error. 3/10

THEMES OF THE DAY

-Grammar schools under Labour (Bob Ounn, C, Dartford)

-The affect in Essex of Scottish and Welsh devolution (John Whittingdale, C, *The Daily Mail and the Stephen Lawrence murder (David Winnick, Lab, Wal

"The "European Social Model", (Alan Duncan, C, Rutland and Melton)
"Closure of old people's homes (Eddle Loyden, Lab, Liverpool Garston)

Blair pointed out individual "profiteering" from the privatisation of railway rolling stock companies. Major said Labour opposed companies "peing efficient and being sold on". Blair cited examples of "windfall", including a possible profit. of £20m that could be made by the managing director of one company who invested £110,000 a year ago. Major said that Blatr's private office was fund-



specied those who fought in the Secagain at the closure of old people's



Andrew Robotham (C. Blaby): Asked if Major had studied "the orm at the five o'clock (horse-race) meeting tonight at Market Rasen?... has he noticed a sporting chance at 8-1 called Pause For Thought?... Does he agree that "pause for thought" might have been a maxim for the recent converts to privatising the Tote?"

Winnick asked whether "the Daily Mail was night to campaign for the murderers of Stephen Lawrence to be brought to justice. and to name names?" Major replied: "I understand there is no question of statutory contempt as a result of the activities of the

Duncan used his question to echo the Conservative poster cam

paign launched yesterday. He asked Major to confirm that if we were to adopt the "European Social Model", 23 million house-

Tory admits errors over BSE

Katherine Butler, Brussels

The British government made mistakes in its bandling of the BSE crisis a leading Conservative bas admitted.

Lord Henry Plumb, a member of the European Parliament, made the admission yesterday as the Strasbourg assembly prepared to endorse a damning resolution which coodemns Britain and threatens to sack the Europeao Commission en masse

for putting the concerns of beef farmers before buman health. The resolution, which is expected to be backed in a vote

til November to implement a radical overhaul of food safety policy or face a vote of censure. The entire Commission must resign if a majority of MEPs supports a censure motion. In theory, the Commission could

expected to draw support.

today, gives the Commission un-

MEPs may also call today for a refund to European taxpayers of the £1bn in EU subsidies paid to Britain in farmer compensation since last March, although few deputies seriously

believe this will be beeded. Lord Plumb criticised a "witch bunt" against Britain but acknowledged mismanagement: "Whilst mistakes were made and people have said we be sacked today but a motion could have done better in the tabled by a Belgian MEP is not past, I don't think that calls for could have done better in the condemnation".

Downing Street described the report as a "flawed piece of work". It said the highly controversial document contained. a "great number of inaccura-cies" and ignored the strenuous efforts Britain had made to tackle the disease.

In an attempt to head off the threat of censure, Jacques Santer, the European Commission President yesterday offered MEPs shared authority with EU governments over certain aspects of health policy.

of the sprawling Brussels agriculture directorate. Farm commissioner Franz Fischler will, bowever, be suripped of responsibility for food safety. which is to be transferred to Emma Bonino, the Italian in

charge of consumer affairs. Mr Santer also pledged all veterinary inspections would in future be handled by a new agency to be located in Ireland. Today's vote on a motion of "conditional censure" comes

He also promised a shakeup in the wake of an eight-month parliamentary inquiry which concluded Britain was the main culprit in the BSE débacle but that the Commission was also

to blame for failures and errors. Sir Stephen Wall, the British ambassador to the EU, dismissed the findings as a "gratuitous misrepresentation of the facts". But Labour MEP Pauline Greene, leader of the Socialist group in Strasbourg. poured scorn on the Conservatives handling of the affair.



Tuck shop: John Prescott eating a custard pie in Heswall yesterday while campaigning in the Wirral South by-election

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Labour cattiness wins chorus of disapproval

Seven "vindictive" Labour MPs wbo called on Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the multi-millionaire composer, to fulfil his so-called promise to quit Britain if Labour wins the general election, came under fire from Conservatives last night.

Angry Tories claimed that the MPs, whose Commons motion effectively said "good riddance" to Sir Andrew, were predicting a new brain drain in a Labourruled Britain. They described the signatories to the motion as "churlish, envious and jealous" of a brilliantly successful man who had earned billions of dol-lars for the United Kingdom.

The motion is based on reports that Sir Andrew would move to Ireland if Labour wins. But a spokeswoman for the composer - wbo became a life peer in the New Year Honours

- said he had no plans to live

outside the UK. "He's being in-troduced to the House of Lords next week, so it's bardly the action of someone who is likely to leave the country." The motion says the possi-

bility of Sir Andrew leaving the country "provides an extra inceotive to vote Labour" and that the MPs "look forward to Sir Andrew keeping his promise". But John Butcher, Tory MP for Coventry South West, said:

"It is churlish and spiteful and reveals Labour's old prejudice against successful people. Sad-Sir Andrew could be followed by thousands of successful industrialists if Labour gets in." Harry Greenway, Conserva-

tive MP for Ealing North, said: "If Sir Andrew goes, he would take buge talent with him. This would be the second brain drain - and Labour MPs are already predicting what would happen.

Sir Andrew bas earned billions of dollars for Britain and it is monstrous that spiteful Labour MPs sbould react like this."

Micbael Fabricant, Tory MP for Mid Staffs, said: "These people have conveniently forgotten what Sir Andrew has earned for this country. They are already wishing a brain drain of our wealth-creating talent."

The composer, responsible for a string of West End hits including Evita, Cats and Phantom of the Opera, is said by friends to be adopting a "wait and see" approach.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, who sponsored the motion, described Sir Andrew's reported threat to leave the country if Labour was elected as "arrogant in the extreme". He wanted to see the back of Sir Andrew "because that's the best view".

PM joins a debate over race murder

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

The Prime Minister said yesterday that he hoped the killers of Stepben Lawrence, the black teenager who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in London,

could still be jailed. His comments follow an nquest which found that Mr Lawrence, 18, had been unlawfully killed four years ago in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white

vouths" The Daily Mail provoked a general furore and outrage among many leading legal figures after it printed the names and photographs of five unconvicted young white men and accused them of being the murderers.

Three of the five, from southeast London, cannot be tried for Mr Lawrence's murder as they have already been acquitted and under British law cannot face the same charge.

Speaking at Commons question time. John Major told MPs: "I hope even at this stage that it will be possible to mount a successful prosecution. If evidence is forthcoming, it will be examined. There is no lack of will to prosecute."

He is understood to have been making a general com-ment about his desire for justice to be dooe, rather than talking about any specific suspects. His comments came after Mr

Lawrence's mother, Doreen. speaking yesterday at the launch of the 1997 European Year Against Racism, urged people to join the campaign to bring his killers to trial.

The Prime Minister went on to say the Daily Mail was cleared of any statutory contempt after it accused the five white men of

Mr Lawrence's murder. He said: "I'm not myself a lawyer, but I understand there's no question of statutory contempt as a result of the activi-ties of the Daily Mail."

mers prepared. Mr Major

the Government bad committed itself to in-L creasing funding on the NHS - yelled Mr Decibel, the Secretary of State for Health-"yerr on yerr on yerr on yerr on yerr!". Last time it was only yerr on yerr on yerr on yerr. He adds

one more "yerr" each time. Decibel's opposite number. Chris Smith, was not to be outdone. He spoke of the prob-lems facing "patient after patient, hospital after hospital". If this escalation continues there will be parliamentary time only for one health question ("patient, after patient, hospital after hospital, ward af-ter ward, nurse after nurse "etc) and one answer ("yerr on yerr, on yerr, on yerr, on yerr" ad infinitum). Or will one of them flinch, and walk off huffily, saying that they won't play this silly game anymore because, somewhere along the line; they've grown up? I doubt it. Meanwhile Labour's col-

lection of scrious health women were looking concerned. They began the session gathered together, giving support to the two sisters (Tessa Jowell and Anne Coffey) who sit on the front bench. But their sorority was put in danger with the arrival of male colleague, Tam Dalyell. Mr Da-

My exaggeration is greater than yours

lyell, alone of MPs, is allowed to supplement the upbolstery of the Commons, and trails a tatty green cusbion behind him for that purpose. This cushion he deploys as a retrospective reservation card. plonking it down where fellow MPs are already sitting - an early warning that his bottom is about to follow. (Once upon a time, a colleague tells me, Tam used to have a rubber ring, but I presume that its regular inflation and deflation reminded him too painfully of when Labour was in power.) The women watched as the dreaded cushion came closer, hovered ominously above an anxious Bridget Prentice - and moved on. Phew!

Now safe from the predatory oillow, one of Labour's leading ladies, Tessa Jowell - in uni-

form of bob and box jacket asked something earnest about cancer patients having to wait for operations. This led junior minister, the Hon Tom Sackville, to go hallisne with ear-splitting Dorellian vio-lence. How dare the honourable lady resort to cheap political point-scoring? (Exensive point-scoring - such as huying all the poster sites in Britain - is quite acceptable.)

Cue Prime Minister's questions. John Whittingdale, the intelligent and cuddly young right-wing soft toy - who sits (comfortably) for Colcbester South and Maldon - was concerned that a Scottish parlia-ment would lead to insurrection by English nationalists in his peaceful part of Essex. Scythes were being

sharpened and hedge-trim-

agreed, sombrely. He too fears the spectacle of kilts being burned on the streets of Saffron Walden. With their Caleonian owners still in them. The other main whipped question came from the ex-

misitely chiselled lips of Alan Duncan (Con. Rutland and Melton). Would the Prime Minister make it clear that unlike the shadow Foreign Secretary (Robin Cook) - be was "not at home with the European social model". The idea of being at home with any model was clearly repugnant to the dapper Duncan, let alone a European social one (doubtless named something like Heidi or Ettal, whose curves would be likely to grace the pages of *Der Spiegel* or the Svenske Tuteblad.

Mr Major reassured a relieved House that he most certainly would not be at home with a European social model. The social and fragrant Norma was quite satisfactory in every important way, thank you; so such promiscuous French-type thoughts could be left to the benches opposite.

Along the bench Mr Decibel nodded vigorously. "Herr. herr!" he bellowed, "herr, herr



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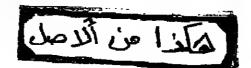
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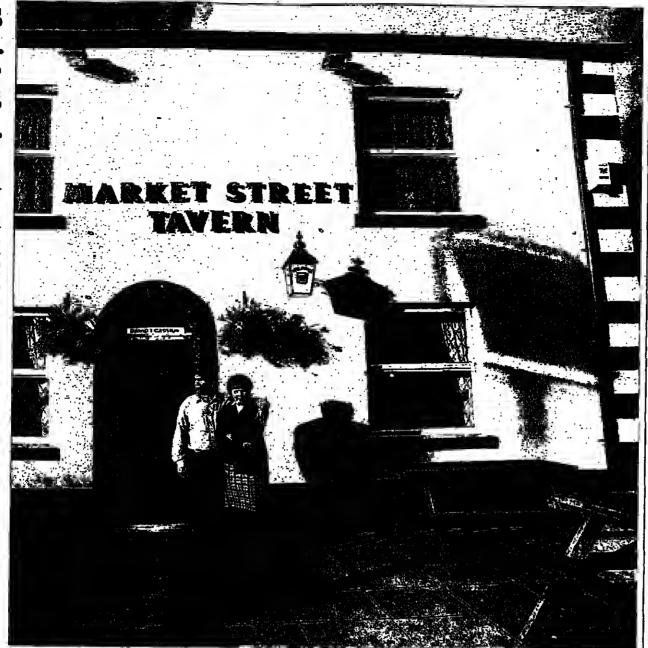
Publicans from all over the country are holding a confer-ence in Londno today in an attempt to head off what they claim is a serious threat to thousands of Britain's pubs.
They will lobby MPs and

brewers over restrictions on tied houses which are driving their costs up and many of their colleagues, like David and Joan Cassidy (pictured, right) - who run the Market Street Tavern in Radcliffe, near Manchester to the brink of disaster.

The Federation of Small Businesses is hosting the con-ference at Church House in Westminster, central London, to highlight the difficulties enconotered since the big eight brewers were ordered by the Monopolies Commission to sell off 11,000 pubs in 1990.

The federation says that the tenants of those tied pubs have to pay high rents and must buy beer from their brewers at full list price, whereas free houses get discounts of up to 25 per

"The rent and beer prices are too high," said Mr Cassidy. We owe our brewery [Matthew Brown] £5,000 and we've only been here nine



Tied to the brewery: Joan and David Cassidy, who say that rent and beer prices are too high Photograph: John Voos

Genetic testing for insurance moves closer

Nic Cicutti

Compulsory genetic testing for insurance policyholders moved a step closer yesterday as the Association of British Insurers said that those who have already taken any such test will have to report its results to the company they want cover from.

The ABL, the industry's trade body, insisted that the new pol-icy reflected existing practice by its members. It said that companies would ignore the results of any genetic tests if they were part of an application to buy a house worth up to £100,000. Tony Baker, the ABI's deputy

director-general, said his organisation's policy was a carefully considered and responsible contribution to ...

oew challenges". But some ABI members. who refused to be named, privately warned yesterday that the statement, which will remain in place for two years, was "the thin end of the wedge". Eventually, genetic testing would be part and parcel of assessing most prospective policyhold-ers' risk profiles.

Ian Reed, general manager at Cornhill, owned by Allianz, the German insurance giant, said: "At this stage in the develop-

meot of genetic science, it is imppropriate for insurers to be seen as representing a negative ation said it was concerned over the continuing use of health information for nonimppropriate for insurers to be seen as representing a negative element to what promises to be a revolution in the management

Cornhill said it would refuse to ask for any genetic testing information for any policy under £100,000.

The ABI's statement marks the latest phase in a debate as tn whether increasingly sophis-ticated genetic tests for a range of diseases should be used to decay insurance to those who may be found to have the potential to develop life-threatening illnesses

Doctors can already diagnose the most common single gene defects, such as muscular dystrophy. Experts say it will soon he possible to predict the risk of more common disorders. such as diabetes or rheumatoid arthritis, while heart disease and cancer may only be a few years

Many American companies already require applicants for insurance to undergo genetic testing. But in the United King-dom, fears have been raised of an insurance underclass, unable to obtain insurance or penalised by a oegative genetic test.

medical purposes.

result of a genetic test may give a lot of information about an individual's health. On the other hand, it may give very little information at all.

"For example, a test may indicate a predisposition to a particular disease but the individual may never develop the

"One individual may test positive for a disease without having the disease themselves."

The spokeswoman added:
"At the BMA we are worried about the extent to which genetic information, which can be extremely complex, could be

misinterpreted. "We are very pleased that the ABI has clearly stated that they will not be asking anyone to take a genetic test whoo they apply for life insurance.

"We remain worried about the increasing use of people's health information for noohealth issues and would be concerned if people were discouraged from finding out more about their health oeeds because of fears about the social implications of taking a test,'

Channel Five banks on football and films

Chanoel Five produced few ripples of surprise or alarm yesterday when it unveiled its programme line-up for the first time to a treody waterside development on the south bank of the Thames, specially decked out in the five superbright bars of colours which comprise its

corporate identity. Apart from signalling that it will be competing fiercely in the foothall bidding war, there was nuthing which has oot beeo trailed already in the press.

Britain's fifth and final terrestrial service will be relying heavily on nightly films, a newstyle soap opera, American imports and a different opproach to news and current affairs to make its mark before the digital revolution unleashes up to 2(X) satellite channels at the end

which will go oo a few hig blockbuster such as Indepen-dence Day and Braveheart, and oo live coverage of World Cup-qualifier matches.

C5 has already splashed out to acquire the rights to the inst Italy in the autumn

The only major domestic drama it could trail yesterday was a series based on Stephanie Slater's kidoap at the hands of Michael Sams, which it will screen on its 30 March opening night. But it promised other projects in the pipelines.

Dawn Airey, head of proramming, stressed that up to 70 per cent of its output would be original productions. She said C5 would be the only free-toair channel which was both modern and mainstream, pro-

Its programming hudget is a ducing "intelligent, stylish popmodest £130m, a befty whack of ular television rooted in attitudes and tastes of modern British life".

It will also be the first terrestrial station to operate a "stripped and satellite" schedule, pioneered in this country by American-influenced cable and Polaod-England match in May satellite channels. This means and confirmed yesterday that it that it will slice the daily schedis keen to secure coverage of the ule into programming genres which would occupy slot each day.

The news output will be pitched primarily at young males, who tend not to tune into current affairs programmes but are an audience advertisers are eager to attract. A young, blonde presenter, Kirsty Young, has been brought down from Scotland to give it some sex appeal.

Channel Five's chief executive David Elsteinforecast that the station would attract a 5 per cent share of total viewing by



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New name, new station same old stories

Channel Fire is so proud of its corporate buzz words, "modern mainstream", that it has actually taken out a trademark on them. You can see the protecthe initials in the glossy preview brochure which accompanied the launch of its schedule, as if the phrase is a sort of secret formula for the creation of a tekwision station and mere repctition of it might transform a mixed bag of foreign soaps, buy-in drama and cheap-andcheerful home-grown product into "a force for change in popular contemporary culture".

What exactly does it have in mind, one wonders - the arrival of Hercules and Nena, an American treat for fans of harebrained action-adventure"? Or Lyclusive!, a half-hour of celebrity gossip which will run every night at seven as part of



Sutcliffe. TV Critic, imitation the order of the day

the "stripped and stranded" schedule? This sounds like a particularly horrible stag night prank hut actually refers to the American practice of not frightening the audience with any sudden movements.

If you like soaps, for example, C5 will give you Family Affairs at 6.30 every week night. If you like leisure and lifestyle programmes then a rotating array of programmes will turn up at 8-30 every night. This isn't quite as innovative as C5 would like to

make out - BBC2 and Channel 4 have both experimented with similar tactics. But C5 takes them further, a fact that makes its schedules look much more like those of a cable channel than of a fifth terrestrial network. Imitation or resurrection

seems to be the order of the day - the drama includes an Australian version of London's Burning, an Aaron Spelling Bay-watch clone and a down-under hybrid of Cracker and Silent Witnest. What is missing is any sign of genuine innovation. My hopes rose a little on spotting The Bed, a launch-night special which follows the occupants of a single intensive-care bed over a four mouth period. But if you can't wait to see this, you don't have to - Channel 4 broadcasts a very similar programme, with an identical title, next Monday.

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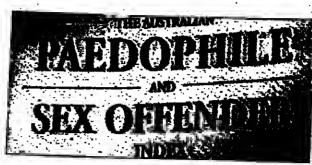


This woman has named 600 child abusers in Australia. Now she plans a British list

Robert Milliken Sydney and Glenda Cooper

A woman who yesterday published a controversial book naming more than 600 convicted paedophiles in Australia says that she plans to compile a similar book in Britain.

But probation officers and civil rights groups said it would be "unhelpful, ineffective and dangerous" if Deborah Coddington, who compiled *The Australian Paedophile and Sex Offender Index*, was allowed to publish such a book. They warned that such action was likely to put children in more danger by driving paedophiles underground, away from intensive supervision and giving them more opportunity to abuse.



Look it up: Offenders are indexed by name and location

Ms Coddington's 304-page Australian book contains an alphabetical compilation of people convicted of abusing children since 1991, including details of their offences and the likely release dates of those in mison.

lease dates of those in prison.

She follows this with an index of offenders by town and city

and another index by occupation. The biggest category here belongs to "clergy and church".

Her sources were newspapers, sentencing directories and conviction details from the Internet. "I became more and more horrified... at the ways inwhich predators located children, abused them and repeated their crimes," she writes in her introduction. "Paedophiles are very cunning and without conscience – they use threats, bribery, secrets, lies, flattery and other tricks to ensure the child

victim does not tell anyone."

Ms Coddington's book comes at a time when a royal commission inquiry into corruption in the New South Wales police force has begun an investigation of child abuse and the alleged protection of paedophiles by police. Already, seven witnesses have committed suicide, including a former Supreme Court indge and two policemen. The latest, a headmaster, hanged himself last weekend.

Ms Coddington, a journalist and mother of four, published a similar book in New Zealand last year where she was praised by supporters of children's rights and abused by civil libertarians.

and lawyers. "I felt like the most hated woman in New Zealand," she said in Sydney yesterday. She dismissed the criticisms, saying that the people in her book had abused another person's right to pursue happiness and so had forfeited, for a time their year rights.

for a time, their own rights.

But Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of Britain's National Association of Probation Officers warned of the dangers of such a book being brought out in this country. "It is liable to drive paedophiles underground [and] could potentially incite mob mentality," he said, adding that it would also be ineffective because around 80 per cent of paedophiles are

never convicted.
John Wadham, director of
Liberty, the civil rights group,
added: "Sex offenders could be
attacked... There could also be
mistakes in the book which will
lead to innocent people being
targeted."

In Britain the Sexual Offenders Bill will set up a national register of sex offenders, enabling the police to keep track of convicted paedophiles and rapists. It is intended that only the police should have access to the information.

But pressure has been growing to bring in community notification orders similar to "Megan's Law", introduced in the United States last year, which requires public notification of the name and address of any convicted sex offender.

It is named after seven-yearold Megan Kanka, who was raped and murdered by a convicted paedophile who had moved into the street in New Jersey where she lived.

DAILY POEM

The Origin of Love

By Vasko Popa, translated by Anne Pennington

I'm waiting for the sun on a bench In the park opposite my bouse

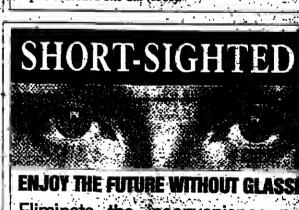
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The newspaper reader at the other end of the bench Follows the path of my gazes

Love hasn't always existed The poor invented it you know

To get at women's sweet locks And men's straight keys Without silver shillings

Anne Pennington's translation from the Serbian of Vasko Popa's Collected Poems has been updated by Francis R Jones and is published by Anvil Press (£25). This poem first appeared in Popa's collection The Cut (1981).



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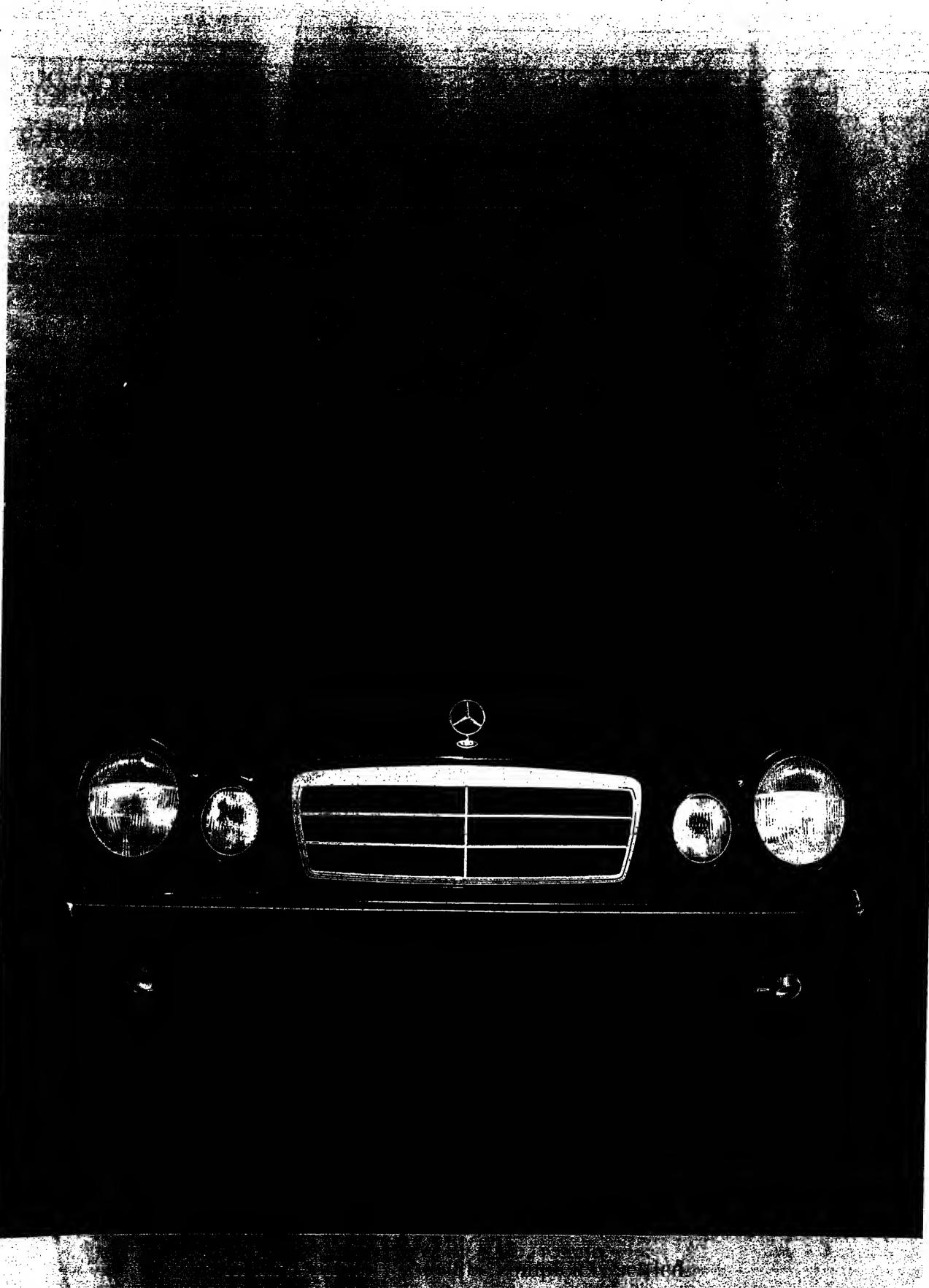
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Playtime: A boy pulling a face at the camera in the Pillar Box Montessori Nursery School in Bow, east London.

Half private nurseries failing to make the grade, say inspectors

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

Nearly half private and voluntary nurseries fail to reach government standards in some way, says an inspectors' report published yesterday.

The findings of the first official audit of private nurseries provoked a political row, with Labour asking why only two private nurseries had been refused money under the Government's nursery voucher scheme when weaknesses had been found in so many.

But Gillian Shephard, the

tion, said she was delighted that most nurseries and playgroups were offering highquality education. All parents of four-year-olds will shortly receive £1,100 vouchers.

for Standards in Education says that such weaknesses are widespread and that 45 per cent of the 329 private nurseries and playgroups need to be re-inspected within one or two years. To receive voucher money

nurseries have to meet government standards in maths, liter- Margaret Hodge, Labour's report, a small sample of state- The problem, say the in- year-olds are being poached by acy, personal and social nursery spokeswoman said: school reception classes with spectors, lies in giving staff the state-school reception classes?"

understanding of the world, creative development and physical development. Day nurseries and small play-

groups had the most difficulty meeting the standards though the The report from the Office best of them managed to do so. One in four of the nurseries inspected had weaknesses in maths and one in five in literacy. Sixty per cent had weaknesses in "knowledge and understanding of the world", which includes geography, history and

"This is an appalling record. If these were primary schools, ministers would be pointing to worrying failings. Public mon-ey is being wasted on low-

quality nursery places."
Mrs Shephard said: "We now have evidence that schools, nurseries and playgroups are ef-fectively helping children to meet their key learning goals. Where provision falls below the standards expected, I will not hesitate to remove a provider from the scheme."

By contrast, according to the trained to run playgroups.

scratch. Inspectors looked at 28 requirements. Playgroups and private nurssuch classes. All met the scheme's goals, but the inspec-

tors worried that the needs of

four-year-olds in some classes

were not being met, particularly

where they were being taught

The report found that all

types of institution were capable

found in staff with a variety of

qualifications, including parents

alongside older children.

eries have complained that they are losing pupils as four-year-olds are crammed into reception classes by schools eager for voucher money.

Margaret Lochrie of the Pre-

School Learning Alliance, said: "It is quite a positive result givof reaching the standards re- en that our pre-schools have bad no funding at all until now. But how are pre-schools with weaknesses to get the resources they need to improve when ... four-

New teachers to set classier standards

Higher standards for new teachers, including the requirement to set a good example in dress

and behaviour, were announced yesterday by the Government. The first national curriculum for teacher-training students to be introduced from the autumn will prescribe for the first time what all new primary teachers should know and how they should teach.

New primary teachers will have to prove that they have a secure grasp of grammar, spelling and mental arithmetic. They must know how to teach the whole class and how to use phonics to teach reading. All eachers will need to show that they can keep order and set demanding expectations.

Entrants to teacher-training colleges will still need a grade C in English and maths and, for those born after September 1979, in science. But they will be expected to improve their knowledge and skills in those subjects before they qualify.

It will be left to teachertraining colleges to assess whether they are up to standard although inspectors will make periodic checks.

Anthea Millett, head of the

Teacher Training Agency, said that it was impossible to know whether the changes would mean that more teachers would fail to pass their courses. The majority of institutions will need to make some adjustments. Some will have to make substantial changes," she said. Gillian Shephard, the Secre-

tary of State for Education, said: "Through no fault of their own teachers are being allowed to leave some teacher-training colleges without the essential knowledge to ensure that all pupils learn hasic literacy and numeracy skills. This has got to stop - and it will."

She emphasised the importance of teachers as role models. "Young people are impressed by image. I think that if they perceive that a teacher regards his or her work as important enough to warrant smart dress and good presentation then young people will think that it is an important job,"

What recruits should know

von vou loor test andi

A newly qualified teacher must:

■ Have a secure grasp of the subjects they teach; ■ Stimulate pupils' Intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm:

■ Set demanding expectations; Maintain good discipline; Check pupils are

making good progress; Plan and organise ssons well; Set and mark appropriate classwork

and homework;

through their

Prepare informative reports to parents;
Be up to date with research on teaching methods and subjects; Set a good example

presentation and conduct: Be proficient in information technology; Know how to identify and assess children with special needs.

Mrs Shephard said. David Blun-kett. Labour's education spokesman, said: "The Torics promised in their 1979 manifesto to reform teacher training It is unbelievable that it has taken 18 years and seven secretaries of state to get this far."

Teachers generally welcomed the announcement though Rowie Shaw, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it verged on a political stunt, adding: "There has been no conclusive research to prove that in this country interactive whole-class teaching is the one teaching method which will

raise standards." Professor Ted Wragg, of the University of Exeter's department of education, said: "This is banal and self-evident. One of our studies, showed, for instance, that student teachers are already spending half their time on whole-class teaching."

Leading article, page 13

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Women's groups set doorstep test for candidates

Women's groups aim to dis-tribute a "check-list" to all 23 million female voters to test the commitment of candidates in the general election and their political parties to equal opportunities.

The plan to put equality issues centre-stage for the hus-tings was announced yesterday as a survey by National Opin-ion Polls showed that seven out of ten women - and more than five in ten men - believed that the political parties did not pay enough attention to issues that were important to women.

The Women's National Commission - an 8-million strong umbrella organisation for groups ranging from towns-women's guilds to trade unions - is to send out the 10-point check-list to all its affiliates who will distribute it among their members and encourage all women to "keep it by the. front door" so that they can confront political canvassers.

The 10 questions that "every prospective MP needs to answer" include inquiries about childcare, low wages, domestic violence, health care and the fact that fewer than one in teo MPs are women.

Together with the women's commission, the equal opportunities commissions for Britain and Northern Ireland yesterday launched a campaign of political awareness under the theme: There is nothing more dangerous than a woman's vote ig-Significantly, the initiative has been endorsed by the womeo's section of the Conservative Party, which by worse than any other party in

However, Kamlesh Bahl chairwoman of the Equal Op-portunities Commission, was

careful yesterday to avoid being accused of party political bias. She insisted that it was the duty of her organisations to set out the issues rather than tell people how to vote, But on her Organisation's key policy of re-form of equality legislation, the Tory party was the only one out of the three main political parties to reject such a strategy.

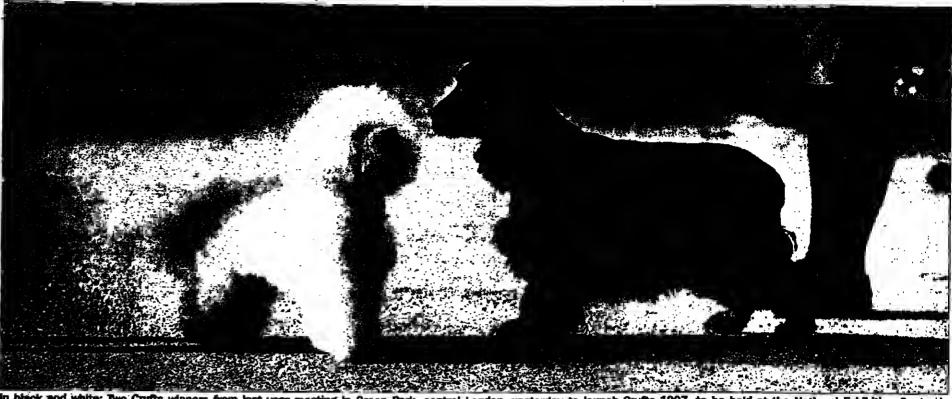
Ms Bahl said the campaign the National Agenda for Action, had already succeeded in prompting politicians to think hard about their policies. For the first time we are making sure that that the issues which really matter to women are being put at the heart of the political

women are being ignored by the political parties. The votes of women will be critical in deciding the next government and politicians can no longer neglect their views." The commissions will publish an assessment of each election manifesto.

Liz Bavidge, co-chair of the Women's National Commission, pointed out that a high proportion of floating voters were women and that therefore the political parties could not afford to ignore their views.

The NOP poll showed that 75 per cent of 25- to 54-year-olds - the core of female voters were the most dissatisfied with the parties. Researchers found the least dissatisfaction in East Anglia, where only 40 per cent said the parties were ignoring women's issues. Ms Bahl commented that such a result was probably prompted by the factand women was at its lowest in

Top dogs take a walk in the park for Crufts



In black and white: Two Crufts winners from last year meeting in Green Park, central London, yesterday to launch Crufts 1997, to be held at the National Exhibition Centre in from 6-9 March. Albert, the cocker spaniel, was Best in Show and Faith, a bichon frise, won the international junior handler class

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Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

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Children's health and security could be threatened by the growing number of mobile telephone aerials being sited on school buildings, a teaching union is warning.
The National Association of

Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) is preparing to issue guidance to all schools advising them not to agree to install the aerial masts amid concern over their safety. Research into the effects of

the electromagnetic fields emitted by the masts has failed to disprove claims that exposure to the fields can cause cancer. The four mobile phone companies say they are operating within nationally set safety limits and deny any threat to health. The union also fears that the

aerials present a security risk, since schools are obliged to allow engineers on site for servicing and repairs.

Mobile phone operators anxious to spread their networks across the country offer schools as much as £4,000 a year in return for siting the masts on their roofs or in their grounds.

More than 200 schools and further-education colleges have so far signed mast contracts, some agreeing to keep them for 12 years. However, at least one school is engaged in a legal battle after deciding to back out of a contract on safety grounds.

The NASUWT, which has put its case to the Health and Safety Executive, is to urge schools not to sign acrial contracts until

research proves they are safe. Simon Whitney, NASUWT county secretary in Norfolk, said British research had given the masts a clean bill of health but studies in the United States had raised questions. He said: "If there is even the slightest risk of cancer then these aerials should be kept well away from children."

The phone operators deny the masts are unsafe, citing an investigation by the National Radiological Protection Board which concluded that "there is no convincing evidence that electromagnetic fields cause cancer". However, the NRPB and a European Commission study last year both said existing research was inadequate to allow firm conclusions.

A spokesman for Cellnet, which has 1,700 aerials countrywide including around 25 on schools, said: There is no proven link between masts and any health effects whatsoever."
He dismissed concerns over security, saying engineers entered schools only by appointment and always carried

identification.
Vodafone, the largest operator which has 130 masts on schools, and Orange also dismissed health concerns. One2One, the smallest operator, said it put masts on school buildings only as a last resort.

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Kinkel parries Russia's call for veto over Nato

Phil Reeves Moscow

Every world class fixture has a warm-up act, and the encounter hetween Madeleine Albright is unlikely to have departed and Russia is no exception. As much from Ms Albright's main an indignant Moscow awaited the new US Secretary of State, the second act on the bill climbed into the ring vesterday - Germany's Foreign Secre-

tary, Klaus Kinkel. He came to spar with his counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, over Nato expansion in the hope of softening up the Kremlin before the small but determined tigure of Ms Albright and her bandwagon hoves into view

At least one new condition was discussed and won Russian approval - the prospect of an informal accord outlining the principles of Moscow's relationship with the alliance, to be signed before the July summit in Madrid, when Nato unveils

Germany is closer to Russia Conventional Forces in Euthan any other Western power, rope (CFE) treaty to specify and has pursued a more conciliatory line over Nato than the United States. But Mr Kinkel script - yes to a Russia-Nato council and no to a Russian veto over Nato affairs.

sharp rise in the volume of the Nato debate in Russia. It has become the issue of the hour, with the exception of the future of Boris Yeltsin. Moscow's fractious political élite is almost unanimously opposed to the alliance's eastward march, which has left Russia feeling threatened and at risk of a surge in anti-Western, nationalist senti-

No doubt sensing differences within Nato's 16 members, the Russians have been pressing their case harder than ever. This week Mr Primakov told Russia's NTV that Russia's concerns could he met by revising the jointly hy Nato and Russia."

rope (CFE) treaty to specify national arms limits, thus restricting Nato's ability to introduce extra troops and weaponry to its new territory. And Russia is continuing to

press for the right to exercise specific control over the alliance's activities. Mr Primakov His mission coincided with a stressed that Moscow regards it harp rise in the volume of the as "mandatory" that the two sides have a legally binding charter defining Russia's rela-tions with the alliance, though Nato has pledged to refuse anything that smacks of a veto.

Yesterday, Igor Ivanov, the deputy foreign minister, weighed in with an interview with the Interfax news agency: "If you think that it is impossihle to build or think of true security in Europe without Russia – and everyone is saying that today - let us put it down. Let us find a form in which decisions on fundamental European security matters would be made

Whilst the Nato debate will dominate the headlines, huge interest will also focus on the performance of Mr Yeltsin.

These are testing times. One paper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, has alleged that his wife, Naina, has been urging him to stand down, a report which prompted the Kremlin to accuse the reporter of "H G Wells" style fiction and to revoke his accreditation. Ominous rumours have been circulating of Mr Yeltsin's 66th birthday party. most of which he is said to have spent stretched out on a couch.
Looking puffy-faced hut rel-

atively alert, Mr Yeltsin yester-day met Yasser Arafat. But it will take more than a short choreographed public appearances to convince the world he is well enough to govern.

The higgest hurdle comes on 6 March, when he is to de-liver his state-of-the-nation address to parliament. After that, it is the Helsinki summit with

Christopher Bellamy on problems Nato enlargement presents

In spring, all Nato countries will investi-

gate credentials of potential new mem-

bers. That will include analysis of the costs

of enlargement. In addition to bearing the

cost of upgrading their armed forces, new

members will have to pay e "subvention" to Nato budgets. The UK currently pays about 10 per cent of the budget and the US 25 per cent (\$147m). Contributions will fall if new members join. But US sources

Insist new members will "not be required to fight World War III" - so contributions

Are they ready?

It will not be necessary for new mem-bers to buy a lot of Western equipment, but they must be able to communicate. Nato has committed itself to not extending its "infrastructure" into the ter-ritory of new members. But, realistically, some new infrastructure, if only secure communications, will be necessary. A fundamental question is whether applicants have enough people who can speak English and French – and whether they have a professional corps of noncommissioned officers.

can they all think Numbers areack

can he kept modest.

Nato insists enlargement will happen, Realistically, Nato will keep the invitation whatever Russle says. In fact, Russla cares very much. A Nato-Russla "charlist as short as possible: the Czech republic, Hungary and Poland are likely. Slovenia and Romania are possible. The ter" is seen as a vital precondition to expansion to help essuage Russian concerns that enlargement is hostile. Baltic states (Estonia, Lavia and Lithua-nia) would like to join. But it is likely they will not be invited in the forseeable fu-Madeleine Albright's proposal for a joint Nato-Russian brigade is another indicator that Russia must be brought in from the ture because Russia would regard it as as unacceptable. In exchange, Russia might be prepared to live with the accold. Russia will want other concessions. cession of the most westerly countries too: progress on the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and reasof the former Warsaw Pact. But Nato is adamant the door must remain open. surances on nuclear weapons.

Nato enlargement has to be ratified by the legislatures of all 16 members, in cluding two-thirds of the US Senate. Powerful interests in Turkey have already threatened to refuse to ratify if Turkey's ambitions to join the EU are frustrated A majority of one against in any national parliament could veto. Each member must make a judgment based on its own criteria, and the 16 must be unanimous. If they are, it will be e minor miracle, but the US, which provides e quarter of Nato funds, will have influence.

Getting 16 nations to agree takes time Nato found this out in Bosnia. Nineteen or more could be more cumbersome. Nato officials Insist there will be no "second-class" members and the Nato security guarantee - an attack on one is an attack on all - applies to all. Nato leaders insist there is no point in expanding if it makes it weaker, though many would argue enlargement will do so. The US stresses Nato was always diverse, and that if it is going to stand still at 16, it might as well not exist.



Nato troops on exercise: The alliance's eastward march makes Russia feel isolated

Photograph: Herbie Knott

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Swiss close in on Italian vegetable fraud

Berne (Reuters) — Swiss authurities are clusing in un a smuggling operation involving illegal transport of vegetables, the Swiss Federal tariff authnrity and the Swiss federal finance ministry said last

"From 1994 to 1996, various firms smuggled 2,165 tnns nf vegetables worth an estimated 3m Swiss francs [£1.25m] from Italy into Switzerland," the authorities said.

The illegal operation is alleged to involve 15 vegetable wholesale companies in Switzerland, funr Italian suppliers and a large cold-storage transport firm.

tnvestigations are near completion. Import restrictions and duty regulations were violated," the authorities said.

Vegetables involved included potatnes, carrots, tumatoes, beans, naious, endive, cauliflower and leeks. In some cases the foodstuffs were found to be falsely labelled as nranges nr lemons, which attract much

Jewish settlement rekindles danger of West Bank uprising

green hill of Har Homa, hetween Jerusalem and Bethlehem, is starting to provoke a fresh crisis in relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is likely to approve within the next few weeks the construction of a Jewish neighbourhood with an initial population of at least 25.000 on land captured by Israel in 1967 Israeli officials say. "I fear that it will bring a wave

of uprisings," says Faisal Hus-seini, the Palestinian leader in Jerusalem. "What happened after the opening of the Western Wall tunnel is nothing compared to what is liable to happen now.'

Har Homa is a long steep hill covered with dark green pine trees, set between the predominantly Christian Palestinian township of Beit Sahour outside the city and the Jewish suburb of Jerusalem called Ramat Rakhel. Designated a "green area" by Israel after 1967, it was expropriated in 1991. There have heen continuing skirPlans for new town have provoked a crisis, writes Patrick Cockburn

and Palestinian farmers who have lost their land. Ahout 6,500 apartments will be huilt under the first phase of the project, but the overall plan is to expand the settlement to house

70.000 people.

Mr Netanyahu is under intense pressure to begin work at Har Homa from parts of his own right-wing coalition, who are nervous that he is backsliding over his election pledge not to make any compromises with the Palestinians over

Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem, has threatened to send in bulldozers on his own account to start construction work. "No Israeli politician has ever lost a vote by being too tough on Jerusalem," says Dan-ny Seidemann, a lawyer op-posing the project before the courts on behalf of local Palestinian communities and the Israeli peace group. Ir Shalem.

will react if construction goes ahead. Unlike the opening of the tunnel in the Old City of which provoked fighting in

← No Israeli politician has ever lost any votes by being tough on Jerusalem 🤊

which 15 Israelis and 61 Pales-tinians died. Har Homa is not close to any Muslim religious shrines. On the other hand Ami Ayalon, the head of the Shin Bet security agency, said yesterday that even if Mr Arafat did not want violence, ordinary

strongly "because of the volatility of the Jerusalem situation". Har Homa occupies a strategic location. "It is the place, not the numbers, which matter,' says Professor Amiram Gonen.

settlements * WEST

Israeli

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Jerusalem

a specialist on the geography of Jerusalem. He says Har Homa would complete a rampart of Jewish settlements on the southern boundary of the city. breaking the continuity of Palestinian neighbourhoods. About 78 per cent of the 600,000 people in Jerusalem are Jewish. But this figure is deceptive; Professor Gonen points out that in the metropolitan area of the city, Jews make up only 55 per cent.

Mr Netanyahu appears eager to avoid a confrontation over Har Homa, which might undo his efforts to present a more moderate image in the aftermath of the partial Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. Danny Seidemann says: "The same people who failed to stop the EXPANDING SETTLEMENTS Hor Hama: New housing for 30,000 settlers Pigsat Zeev: to add 20,000

etilers within two years Ramot: plans to expand Aches Shuafot: housing for 10,000 new Orthodox Jews

 Old city: 35-70 properties in Muslim quarter acquired **6** Nave Yaacov: expanding

Maale Adumin: expanding housing, 2 miles east of city SETTLEMENTS WITHOUT GROWT

 French Hill, Ramot Eschkal, Malleti Daina, Mt Scopus **©** East Talpiot

trying to do the same thing hy building at Har Homa." In contrast to Hehron, however, the huilding of a new settlement in Jerusalem enjoys strong support from centrist politicians like Ehud Barak, expected to be the Labour party's next leader. Har Homa is not the only sign

that the struggle for Jerusalem is heating up. The 170,000 Palestinians in the city say Israel is stepping up efforts to deprive them of Jerusalem identity papers, if they go abroad for work or study. Some who were born in Jerusalem but who have foreign passports have been told they must choose between their Jerusalem identity papers and

their passport.

Because of the growing in-security of their position an increasing number of Palestinians in Jerusalem have taken up Israeli citizenship, which they rejected in the past. The campaign to reduce the number of Palestinians in Jerusalem is

Palestine looks at membership of Commonwealth

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Will Yasser Arafat, the Polestinian leader, attend future Commonwealth conferences? The problem is that the Palestinian Authority is not a sovereign tate and the Commonwealth has no associate membership. Once the Palestinians achieve self-determination, however, the Com-monwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku sees no obstacle to Palestine becoming the 54th member of the organisation.

The issue of associate membership was raised by Afif Safieh, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative to Britain, at a meeting in London last weekend. Despite British control between the wars over large parts of the Middle East, there are no Commonwealth members from the region, although Yemon has applied to join. "Maybe the PLO is rather far sighted in not considering the organisation an empire under a new guise." Michael Fathers, the spokesman for the Commonwealth secretariat, said yesterday.

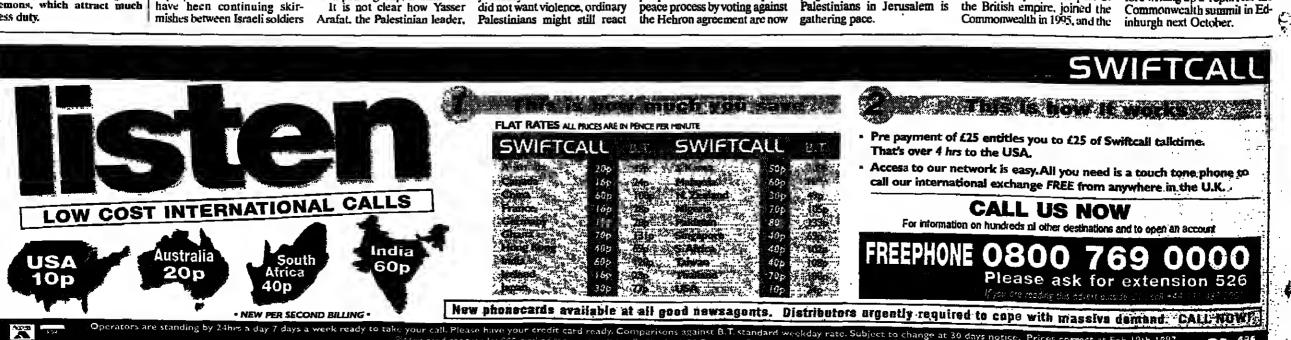
Mozamhique, never part of the British empire, joined the

case for the membership of a Palestinian state, assuming one eventually emerges, is historically much stronger. Relics of the British presence prior to hand-ing over to the United Nations in despair in 1948 survive in Israel and the occupied territories. When Israeli troops withdrew from most of Hebron last month they pulled out of a grim fortress on a hill overlooking the city which the authorities had built

during the unhappy 30 years of ir British rule. The advantages of Commonwealth membership to the Palestinians is a little unclear since Mr Arafat and the Palestinian non-state has greater access to world leaders than most states belonging to the UN.

Commonwealth foreign ministers have delayed taking action against Nigeria, which has been suspended from the group because of the military govern-ment's execution of dissidents.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAO) ended a two-day meeting in London last Tuesday saying it was inviting more information from "all interested parties." before writing up a report for the



Britain faces veto clash with Brussels

Britain faces new conflict with Brussels following proposals published yesterday to abolishuse of the veto in 25 new policy areas. Among areas where unanimity could be abolished are culture, industry and the environment, says a draft proposal on European Union reform published yesterday by the Netherlands, which holds the

presidency. It also sets out the first detailed plans for building a hardcore Europe, using "flexibility." It suggests the veto may not be maintained for "flexibility", which means Britain could lose the power to stop other countries speeding ahead.

Two options are set out under which hard-core countries could proceed after agreement by qualified majority. Only one option is presented for voting by unanimity. The document confirms British fears that other states are determined to find ways of speeding integration without being beld back by ob-jectors. It will form the basis of tough negotiating before final decisions at the European summit in Amsterdam in June.

Under one option, fast-track power-sharing could be applied to several core areas of policymaking, listed as economic and monetary union, including indirect taxation; environmental standards; health and safety of workers and areas of immigra-

tion and justice policy.

Applying flexibility to EMU is important to several memberstates keep to ensure countries which join the single currency should have the power to use fast-track decisions, to speed fu-

The last chance they have to secure a treaty change, creating this power, before the launch of monetary union will be in June. In perhaps their most ground-breaking initiative, the Dutch supported the drive for speedier integration within the Eurozone. They insisted the vetowould, in general, never be lift-ed for policy-making on direct taxation, regional funding and constitutional matters.

The European Commission has been reluctant to accept application of flexibility to areas in the "first pillar" of EU-deci-sion making, which includes EMU, for fear the entire union would fragment as a result.

However, it is clear the phrasing in the Dutch document is broad enough to allow countries to adopt fast-track "flexible" decision-making in any areas of EMU policy-making they choose, including direct tax and social security.

John Major has insisted

Britain would not give up the veto in any new policy areas and Tony Blair has said Labour would accept an extension of qualified majority voting (QMV) to limited areas, citing industry, research, social policy and environment. Several of the 25 areas listed in the Dutch document as a "working basis" for extension of QMV are highly technical, such as development of research and training,

and laws governing professions. Mr Major bas favoured flexibility in principle but insisted Britain should have the right to veto any decision by core groups of countries to move ahead

■ Strasbourg - The European Commission president, Jacques fast-track decisions, to speed future economic integration. Sevfor the way it handled the
eral member-states envisage a "mad-cow crisis, offered the
eral of tax and social security once of veto over EU health policy, tably lead to a super state. Mr Rifkind will refute acca- of German proposals which he gling out the Social the single currency is running. Reuter reports. Judging from statements Mr - sations that Britain is only in- considers anathema. Apart particular odium.



Close up: The Russian president, Boris Yettsin, covering his face during a visit to Chechnya in May last year. The picture, by Dmitry Donskoi, has been chosen as the photograph of the yeer in Russia

Rifkind warns Germany on EU

Imre Karacs Bonn

Britahr's Foreign Secretary sets off on a journey to the heart of Europe today carrying an antifederalist message to the citi-zens of Federal Germany. - Malcolm Rifkind's stated

purpose is to address the people of Europe directly, above the heads of their governments, nd warn them of nefarious plans to rob them of their power. The German government, he is expected to tell an invited andience in Bonn, is proposing changes to the Maastricht

Rifkind has already given to the terested in the EU as a free-German press, there will be little room for diplomatic niceties in his speech.

"What we will not accept and many millions of Europeans are with us - is the attempt to create a United States of Europe," the Foreign Secretary said in an interview to be published today by Bild, the country's biggest tabloid.

The push towards a US of E is coming from Bonn, he will tell Germans. Their government's bring them into the open.
proposals at the later-governBri tain is vehemently opposed mental Conference are designed to achieve this alm, and if Germany were to prevail in its ar- fairs and justice, and in foreign

and security policy. Mr. Rifkind will read out a list of German proposals which he gling out the Social Chapter for

free?

trade zone, but will stress that

London will only tolerate inte-

gration outside the economic do-

not lead to further centralisa-

tion. "There are limits, nation-

al sensibilities and a bottom

line," said diplomatic sources.

marked out in inter-govern-

mental baggling behind closed

doors for the past year, and now the Foreign Secretary plans to

Bri tain is vehemently opposed

to the aboliton of member

states' right of veto in bome af-

The boundaries have been

in if it is practicable and does

from trying to extend majority voting, Bonn stands accused of striving for a greater role for the European Parliament - to be elected on a common electoral system; a Continent-wide police authority; a more powerful European Court of Justice; and

further integration of defence. At least the Foreign Secretary will not to delve into the discrepancy between Bonn's ambitions and the shallowness of its pockets, though he is experted to mention "real issues" that concern ordinary people, such as unemployment. What gloating there is, can be gleaned from his Bild interview, in which he contrasts Germany's record jobless rate with Britain's, sin-

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Bid to bar testimony in Oklahoma bomb case

Lawyers for Timothy McVeigh, accused of killing 168 people in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, tried to bar the testimony of six witnesses, including a farmer who linked Mr McVeigh and co-defendant Terry Nichols to the purchase of fertiliser to make the bomb, and the owner of a Kansas garage where Mr McVeigh allegedly rented the truck to carry it. The defence say their recollections were tainted by film of Mr McVeigh, being jeered by a crowd and escorted by guards, that was shown repeatedly on television. His trial is to start on in March; Mr Nichols will be tried separately.

Tim Cornwell - Los Angeles

Peking says Deng unchanged

China's State Council said it had not beard of any change in the condition of Deng Xiaoping, despite reports suggesting he may have taken a severe turn for the worse. In Yorba Linda, California, the former secretary of state Henry Kissinger said the US should support Peking over its resumed control of Hong Kong. "The Chinese can have no conceivable interest in (seeing Hong Kong) disintegrate economically and poblically."

AP – Peking

Tax break for swindle victims

President Sali Berisha of Albania waived all taxes for two years for residents of Lushnje region to help them after they lost money to fraudulent pyramid-investment schemes. The town was swept by rioting after the schemes

Pyongang writes off defector

In an apparent further softening on the case of Hwang Jang Yop, a high-ranking defector boled up in the South Korean consulate in Peking, the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, said in a radio broadcast that "cowards" who wished to leave should go ahead.

Juppé overture on migrant law

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, hinted that be might strike a deal in the face of opposition to an immigration bill that would oblige citizens to tell the police when foreign guests left their home.

Reuter - Paris

Deaf on the Nile

Cairo plans to enforce anti-ooise measures that could silence Koranic verses blaring from mosques but will above all target the drivers of cars, buses and vans that bonk their

Sobhraj charges to be dropped

India decided to drop all pending charges against the criminal Charles Sobhraj and pressed for his deportation to France, A special prosecutor moved an application to withdraw a jailbreak case against Sobhraj and said permission was being sought to withdraw all other charges to pave the way for deportation.

Meters expire

Row upon row of parking meters in the US capital stand beadless, decapitated by assailants who thereby deprive a near-bankrupt city of even the small change it sorely needs. Harold Brazil, a councillor and possible mayoral candidate, declared "all-out war" on vandals with baseball bats, crowbars or hammers who bave bashed more than 2,200 of the 15,777 meters.

High-taxed Danes fear for their home-grown model

Copenhagen — Gazing down over the Danish Parliament a tall, elegant woman stands in her office, at the top of the national Bank of Denmark, musing about the evolution of the Danish "social model". Why is it that Danes are prepared to pay such high laxes, and to let the state distribute their wealth?

Nothing symbolises the special Danish way of doing things more than the fact that the country has placed two women in charge of its money. Bodil Nyboe Andersen is governor of the Bank of Denmark, and Marianne Jelved is economics minister.

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Sarah Helm concludes her series with a report on Denmark's view of EMU

Europe," says Mrs Nyboe Andersen. "But I can't answer why it happened this way here. It just did - it is an evolution which has lasted more than 150 years. It is a question of faith - do you think one way is better than the other. We are not saying ours should be copied.

So what would happen to the Danish model if the country joined the single currency and

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"It is true we probably have succumbed to economic and the most egalitarian society in mocetary harmonisation? Those matters, Mrs Nyboc Andersen says, are "political" - a ruse, used by many Danes in sensitive positions, to avoid answering the big question: will Denmark join economic and monetary union?

The answer, on the face of it, is clearly no. The Danes, like the British, secured an opt-out from the single currency after Maastricht. But the Danes went even further than Britain - they chose to exercise the opt-out, deciding not to enter at the 1999 launch.

As the deadline approaches, however, some believe Danish resolve to remain out of EMU is faltering. The Danish opt-out could be reversed - after a referendum - in time to join a second wave, perhaps in 2002. If EMU is a success Denmark will not be able to resist joining, say diplomats. It will be part of a second wave, probably coming in along with Britain, Ireland, Swe-

den, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Denmark today provides both a model for those striving for monetary union - and a model for those who believe it is better to stay outside. Along with Luxembourg and

Ireland, Denmark is one of only three countries which meet all the Maastricht economic criteria. The country will balance its public deficit books next year. Ucemployment is at 6 per cent, according to Commission figures, and growth is between

2.5-3 per cent.

Denmark reviewed its public spending in the early 1980s, when it carried out many of the painful adjustments which other countries are undergoing today. The country theo set up a "stability pact" to control public spending, which is something of a forerunner of the EMU stability pact.

While Denmark's success shows the Maastricht way works, however, it also raises questions about the necessity of any deeper economic union which could lead to a levelling of European tax and welfare systems. maintain fiscal discipline while curo in the near future.

keeping to its own unique poli-cies of high tax and high state provision. Income tax, along with environmental taxes and high VAT, mean everyone loses at least 60 per cent of their salary in tax. In return, all health care is provided for and public education is of the highest standard, with private schools available only for special needs.

Although Denmark is makng adjustments to improve labour market flexibility, it still is able to offer every worker a six-month sabbatical and early retirement on virtually full pay. When it comes to the crunch, however, Danes may not be so

sentimental about their welfare

state, "Taxes on everything" is a

6 Green taxes are scorned as a way of raising revenue, not to clean water 9

regular cry. Green taxes are scomed as a means for the government to raise revenue, not to clean the water.

Pro-Europeans, such as Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the former foreign minister say Danes will see sense and accept the single currency once they realise the country will lose influence over European economic policymaking by remaining outside. The country would also risk exchange rate instability. "As soon as Danes start crossing the border to go shopping with euros in Germany they will realise it

makes sense," he says. Mrs Nyboe Andersen seems less sure. "I don't think we should over-estimate the economic costs of staying out," she says. "We already accept the economic policy and would continue to follow it. Although there is a political cost to be paid if we have no influence over decision-making."

If the messages from the political élite remain so unsure, il seems unlikely that Danes will Denmark has managed to be persuaded to say "yes" to the

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SA rugby coach sacked over racist outburst

Mary Braid Johannesburg

Andre Markgraaff, South Africa's national rugby coach, resigned last night following the broadcasting of a tape on national television in which he apparently called black rugby officials and politicians "fuck-

Mr Markgraaff said he had quit in the interests of South African rugby and of national reconciliation. I'm not making any excuses," he said "I was very emotional at the time. I apologise to the black people of this country and to the whites for causing them embarrassmeot."

The recording of a conversation between a rugby official and a play-er was allegedly made in October during the national outcry about Mr Markgraaff's axing of François Pienaar, the popular team captain.

The tape, aired oo SABC television on Mooday night, despite threats of court action, became public three days after the government launched an investigation into alleged mismanagement and racism in the Afrikaaner-dominated sport. Dr Louis Luyt, the cootroversial president of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu), is refus-

ing to co-operate with the probe. Few will regret Mr Markgraaff's downfall. Along with Dr Luyt, he became a national hate figure over-

night for his treatment of Pienaar. The resignation is another body blow for a sport which just two years ago held the promise of a social miracle, Every South African remembers the momeot in 1995 when

Nelson Mandela, sporting a Spring-bok shirt – for so long a symbol of – all white bar one coloured playoppression to blacks - passed the

lugby World Cup to Pienaar. That moment marked more than South Africa's triumphant return to the international arena after years of sporting isolation. Yesterday,



Markgraaff: Quit in interest of

Mr Markgraaff apologised specifically to President Mandela.

Mr Mandela's gesture was an inspired move in South Africa's quest for." he says. for racial reconciliation. In the runup to the 1994 democratic elections, the rugby terraces had become the stage for ugly racist displays of white defiance at the coming political change. In embracing the sport, Mr Mandela indicated he believed it now had the makings of a truly na-

Pienaar, like Mr Mandela, show-

er - to learn the Xhosa words to Shosholoza, the stirring black min-ers' song which Mr Mandela sang during his years of hard labour on Robbin Island and until then the anthem of predominantly black football fans. But the intoxicating

optimism about the future of rugby - and racial harmony in South Africa- finally evaporated with Pienaar's sacking Critics, some from the ranks of the coloured rugby union which

merged with white rugby bodies af-ter the fall of apartheid, claimed the sport was still being run by a cabal, which through racism and sheer love of power was doing little to open the sport up to blacks. How had cricket managed to make an impact in the townships when rugby had failed so dismally, it was asked? Brian van Rooyen, a coloured rugby, official challenged Dr Luyt

for the presidency of the Transvaal Rugby Union in the wake of Pienaar's sacking. He lost but promised to continue his fight to make the management of rugby transparent.
"I want to pave the way for a team that my sons might one day play

Pienaar left South Africa after his sacking to join the English club, Saracens. Mr Mandela invited him over for a farewell lunch. Since then, those who used the national outcry to focus attention oo the wider shortcomings of the game have been working quietly behind the

The tape is connected with a 500-

handed over to the government, questioning, among other things, the payment of commissions on rugby sponsorship and television deals. The government has since launched

Yesterday morning, Mr Markgraaff was still holding on at his farm in Kimberly while Dr Luyt was insisting that there was no room in rugby for racism and that action would be taken against Mr Mark-graaff if indeed he made the

However, Mr Markgraaff's resignation is almost certainly not the end of the matter.

The critics of Sarfu and Dr Luyt are just warming up. If Mr van Rooyen, who claims he has been threatened since he presented his dossier, has his way, Mr Markgraaff will not be the only official to be released to spend more time with

The ANC has said that the tape reinforces "the perception that con-servative elements within Sarfu are resisting the transformation of the union into a non-racial society". It is a trend that is not confined

to the rugby field.
South African sports commentators believe that if the ANC has lost patience it is no surprise.

The fact is that Sarfu has done very little to transform rugby," said one South African sports writer. "Since the world cup they have got rid of the more liberal elemeots at the top and retreated back behind



Glory day: Nelson Mandela presenting the Rugby World Cup to François Pienaar, captain of the victorious South African team, in 1995. Markgraaff sacked Pienaar last October Photograph: Alisport

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Nelson rekindles gossip Cape Town (Reuter) — South African President Nelson Man-

dela rekindled talk yesterday that he might remarry when he appeared hand-in-hand with is Mozambican sweetheart Graca Machel to meet King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia

The King was welcomed by a 21-gun salute outside the Cape Town parliament. Mr Mandela and the Swedish monarch exchanged medals and met privately for 40 minutes at the start of a three-day royal visit, which includes talks with Archbishop: post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr Mandela, 78, last year Graca, 51, the widow of former Mozambican president Samora Machel and said they would try to spend two weeks a month together. The couple have appeared in public together in South Africa only twice before

"This is the first time Mrs Machel has appeared with the President at a state function,

said an official in his office. The media programme for King Carl's three-day state visit had referred only to "President Mandela and his companion".

Reporters had expected the President to be accompanied! as usual by one of his daughters. But as Mr Mandeia led the King down the steps of his office for a chat with tourists and pedestrians at the gate, it was Ms Machel who came down with Queen Silvia, Mr Mandela divorced his wife of 38 years. Winnie, 11 months ago.

Zaire rebels target Kisangani airport

David Orr

The Zairean rebel leader Laoreot Kabila threatened esterday to attack the country's Kisangani airbase, which has been used to bomb three rebelheld towns.

Senior Western diplomats in Africa believe that Mr Kabila's troops are capable of taking the town, Zaire's third largest city and headquarters of the gov ernment's flagging counter-of-fensive. "They'll probably take the city by the eod of this month," ooe said. Strategicalv located at the headwaters of the country's most significant artery, the River Zaire, Kisangani is viewed as the key to con-

trolling the sprawling interior.
Zairean defence officials said that aircraft which bombed the towns of Bukavu, Shabunda and Walikale oo Monday took and wankale of Monday took off from Kisangani. Aid officials said that at least nine people were killed and up to 37 wound-ed in Bukavu, and that thou-sands of refugees were fleeing. Mr Kabila yesterday used

an interview on French televisioo to issue his threat. "These are terrorist actions," he said of the bombing. "And we are going to get ready to take the war ely to the place from where the bombers took off." A senior defence official said

that Goma, the biggest city in rebel hands, was the next target. Bombing raids on nearby Bukavu and other parts of eastern Zaire have reignited fears of a concerted government campaign against civilian targets. But among Goma's inhabitants, belief in the rebels' ability to win the war has not been shaken. Billed last mouth as "total and devastating", the government's counter-offensive has failed to halt the rebel advance.

The fighting is now taking place far to the west, deep in the equatorial rainforest. Since launching their campaign last October, the rebels have taken control of a huge swath of eastem Zaire and renamed it the Democratic Republic of Cougo. Not a week goes past without the capture of a new town or

liance of Democratic Forces for indicate that the ADFL's officer the Liberation of Congo-Zaire cadre is being trained at a camp (ADFL) has enjoyed astound-ing success. With the exception of a couple of initial battles, the Zairean army (FAZ) has hard-

ly bothered to engage the rebels. Instead, the demoralised troops have retreated, raping and looting oo their way.



6 Even the mercenaries hired by the government have taken a beating 9

"It is not so much that the rebels have succeeded," a Western diplomat in the region said. "It's more a question of the FAZ having failed. They're without logistics, training and a will to fight. Even the mercenaries hired by the government have taken a beating?

Suggestions that the rebels' success could only have been achieved with the backing of Rwanda and Uganda continue to be denied by the ADFL and by the country's eastern neighbours. Western diplomats in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, insist that there is no evidence of direct involvement by aither country. Some, however, concede that Rwanda might be pro-viding the rebels with military Led by the long-time revo-hationary Mr Kabila, the Al-instructors. Sources inside Zaire inside Uganda.

"We are doing this on our own," ADFL commissioner of information, Raphael Ghenda. said, seated in his office in central Goma. "The arms we have were left behind by the fleeing Zaircan army. I can't say where we bought our uniforms. But we have used the riches of the region to support our struggle."
So brazen has the rebel thrust

become that Mr Kabila has iveo President Mobutu Sese Seko until this Friday to resign.
If he does not, the rebel leader. says he will march his men right across the country and into the capital, Kinshasa.

"There's quite a lot of pro-aganda with this regime," an aid worker in Goma said. "But, so far, everything they've said has come true. If they say they're going to take a town, they take it. In fact, that's part of their strategy - to announce their next step and wait for the FAZ to flee."

A new offensive against Kisangani could have important results. "The effect on the government of the rebels taking Kisangani would be devastating," a high-ranking Western diplomat in the region said.
The negotiations will start if they reach Kisangani." What shape talks might take is difficult to envisage. Despite his precarious state of health after a cancer operation. President Mobutu, 66, has vowed to crush the rebels by force. For his part, Mr Kabila insists that no egotiations can begin until the President stands down.

Anxious to avoid a costly humanitarian crisis in Zaire

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the almost inevitable fall-out of prolonged conflict in Africa's third largest country - the United States has been actively en gaged in mediating between the two sides. One scenario is that President Mobutu, an old Cold War ally, might be pre-vailed upon to take his plundered fortune and settle questly in exile. This would leave the way open for Mr Kabila to make a deal with the legitimate

Pregnant women and the need to be patient

eclampsia which could kill her and he sure we are not doing exactly the the baby, a woman who is refusing same thing again now? all treatment, how would you, the doctor, react? Reports come in that the mother-to-be has been emotionally unstable during the pregnancy, claiming not to care whether she or the haby lives or dies.

. In the circumstaoces, most of us would be tempted to do what the doctors of Ms S did - to carry out the medical treatment she needs to save her life against her will and take the consequences later on. Better to err on the side of saving her life than to abandoo her aod her foetus to the fate she wished upon late one Saturday night, after an them when io oo state to make a halanced judgement.

But hang on a minute. This is dangerous ground. If S turns out to have been too seriously mentally ill to give informed consent for medical treatment, then the actions of the courts, around hanging women up and operatiog on them against their will to save the lives of babies they do oot care about. Nor can we justify intervening just because their decisions do not seem rational to the rest of us.

That would you do? Faced mental health of mothers and of with a heavily pregnant pregnant women according to social woman suffering from pre- rather than medical criteria. Can we

> Io the circumstances, the doctors' response is understandable. Trained to save lives, they will have wanted to give S the treatment they felt she needed to stop her destroying herself and her unborn child. For make no mistake, pre-eclampsia - the coodition S was found to be suffering from - is very serious. Mother and foetus could both have died. It may eveo he that Ms S is alive to sue today only because she was cut open against her will.

The woman brought into casualty overdose, will be resuscitated by conscientious nurses and doctors, no matter how much she wanted to die. That's their job. But a fully conscious pregnant woman is different. Unlike the pill-popper, she is awake and able to make her own decisioo. Nor doctors and social workers will have is she actively inflicting harm on herheeo fair enough. But we cannot go self, she is simply determined to let nature take its course. Wheo patients can give consent but don't, we doo't treat them. Aids patients are not forced on to AZT. The victim of multiple heart attacks is not forced into a heart traosplant. No one sec-We have a poor history of judging the tions the cancer patient who refuses



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without it.

Admittedly, there are two lives at stake when a woman is pregnant, but that makes oo difference to the treatment that doctors can legitimately give. If a fully conscious, fully informed mother-to-be, in full possessioo of her senses, refuses the treatment that will save her foetus's life, there is nothing that a doctor can legitimately do to interveoe.

It is hard. Much as we might want to rescue that foetus, much as we may hate the woman for her decision, we cannot justify intervection. Once the

radio-therapy, even if death is certain baby is born, should the mother refuse it life-saving care, then doctors and social workers can take over and edge the mother's judgement out of the picture in the ioterests of the child. Parents who refuse treatment for a dving soo or daughter because of their religious belief should, for example, sometimes be overridden for the sake of their childreo. But so long as that foetus is inside the womb. then there is still a woman's body that has to be chopped through to give the foetus the treatment it may need. Cutting womeo open against their will is

the world slithers from clear-cut white and black into a murky, muddy grey. Of course we should treat mentally ill people who refuse treatment, but who cannot understand the consequences of that decision.
But what counts as mentally ill under.
Smarten up? You these circumstances? Refusing treatment that will save your life seems must be joking crazy to most of us. Refusing treatmeot that could save your baby's life is oot the behaviour of a normal her side of the story if sectioning becomes a possibility.

Who knows yet whether S was meotally ill? The trouble is that, giveo the record of British doctors and our state representatives in prooouncing on the health of unconventional pregnant women in the past, we cannot help but be suspicious today. This ceotury, unmarried mothers were locked up, sometimes for decades, and so displaying deeply abnormal hehaviour for the society at the time. Yes, women sometimes behave strangely in preg-

The critical phrase, however, is "in nancy. But the fact that we are all still full possession of her senses". Here, so inclined to treat pregnant women so differently from other patients should make us extremely cautious in judging the case of S.

Most of the teacher training package unveiled yesterday was emimother. But this evidence is not nently sensible - which the Labour damning enough to section a preg- Party's ready asseot showed. Strip nant woman under the Mental away the party political posturing.

Health Act. And it certainly means and here is the hasis for a much every care should be taken to make needed re-professionalisation of sure the woman gets proper legal teaching. But Gillian Shephard could representation, and the chance to put out resist over-egging the pudding.

How teachers teach, their impact in the classroom, their capacity to inspire and stimulate their charges these have got nothing to do with how they are dressed.

The Secretary of State's cult of "smartness" is not just irrelevant, it is hypocritical. The day she and her Cabinet colleagues can be held up as model dressers, sartorial superheroes - that will be the day teachers and anyone else may begin to take seriously the idea that we should look to our leaders for words of wisdom about dress.

What Russia demands

from Nato

Sir: Asthe Czech-born US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, arrives in London, your leading article "Expand Nato and pall Ressia in from the cold" (17 Fehruary) is right to remind us of the diflomatic delicacy required in discussing the issue of Nato

expansion.

It is clear to the whole spectrum of Russian political leaders that Moscow cannut veto the admission of any country to the bloc, but Russiadoes very much have a right to care for its own security. And here Ns Albright must be careful not to toke the embers of Cold

Rusia does perceive Nato expansion as a threat, and is calling for corcrete. legally verifiable accords to calm tensions should any expansion eastwards occur. Russil cannot rely on verbal declarations - the post- German unification process has shown that Natoreneged on its pledge not to expand eastward after the Warsaw Pacts dissolution. Why should we heli/ve Nato this time?

are the likes of Boris Yeltsin and Victor Cheroomyrdin - on the one hald feted at Western top tables as lediers of the Russian march to fre market economics and denocracy - really seen in Washington as revanchists just witing to snuff out the smaller fl-dgling democracies of Eastero Surope at a moment's notice? Nato expansion could lead to larming develupments: resurgent inti-Nato nationalism; cancellation of the Start-II Treaty commitments: abandonment of the "No firststrike" nuclear policy and a new re-

armament campaign.
It was the polarised politics of first the Nazis and then Stalinism that drove Ms Albright - nee Korbel - and many others from her homeland. She must now beware playing into the hands of today's nationalists and hardline Communists and realise her historic responsibility when mapping out a new course for ANDREI OLENIN

Burrau Chief, RLA-Novosti Lordon SW7

Women to decide on gay abortion

Sir: You report that James Watson migh suc a newspaper for claiming that ic advocated the abortion of foetiscs carrying a "gay" gene ("Neel winner backs abortion for any leason", 17 February). You gu on: But in the same breath he saidthat women should have the right to abort for any reason, including a genetic lack of musical or porting ability. Why "But"? The word you seek is "And".

t is perfectly obvious from your report that Dr Watson, like many piople, is simply an advocate of whine i having the choice. The point of his "gay" gene example vas that if you are really committed o giving each woman the choice, rou cannot dictate how she will

exercise it. Dr Watson names abilities in music and basketball, not because he advocates selective abortion in their favour, but precisely to emphasise the irrelevance of what he, or anybody else except the wuman concerned, thinks, given a pro-choice stance.

A woman might passionately desire a homosexual child and elect

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •



to abort a foetus with heterosexual genes. Indeed, I bave not the slightest doubt that Dr Watson would he happy to add heterosexuality to his list of hypothetical reasons for aborting.

It is entirely consistent that the anti-abortion lobby has attacked him. It would he logical for a fathers' lobby (and I might join them) to protest that Dr Watson gives tou much prominence to the mother's wishes alone. But it is totally illogical for the gay lobby to attack him as, according to your report, they have. RICHARD DAWKINS New College, Oxford

Swampy vs democracy

Sir: There is a difference hetween the idealism of youth, which prompts so many young people into taking up some form of voluntary activity, and the political minority rule advocated by the anti-roads protester Swampy ("The Gospel according to Swampy", 17 February).

He appears to believe that we should substitute the tyranny of single-issue politics with, in many cases, its anarchy, for democratic procedures where a majority view is taken. If he believes that singleissue politics will not experience corruption, he is more naive than

appears.
What is necessary in a democracy, apart from a fair voting system, is strong institutions which thwart corruption. Unfortunately, many of these have been found wanting, but that does not mean that we give up and abandun the role of institutional control.

Someone who takes the financial benefits of a structured society and thwarts the majority will of the providers needs to look at his own moral base before lecturing others. NORMAN WEBB Halifax, West Yorkshire

Future bleak for private trains

Sir: With the chaos at South West Trains, one of the first private rail companies, we are seeing just what a failure rail privatisation is for the travelling public ("Minister labels rail company inept over cuts", 18

Thousands of commuters are being left waiting on station platforms because the company chose to let train drivers go before the alternative arrangements for keeping the trains running were in

And all this just weeks hefore the general election, at a time when Transport ministers are desperately trying to talk up rail privatisation. It makes you fear for the future of the railways if the Tories win again.

This Government destroyed the coal industry just months after the last election.

How long would it take another Tory government and the new private rail companies to decide that the sums drin't add up after all - and do the same to Britain's Mrs BRENDA BENSON Feltham, Middlesex

Winter blues at Elsinore

Sir: Christopher Sladen's textual interpretation of Hamlet really won't do (letter, 18 February). When the prince soliloquises about his mother's frailty in

marrying her brother-in-law within "a little month" of her husband's death, he clearly means "a mere month". He is not thinking on the lines of "thirty days bath September ... and February twentyeight", so signalling Fehruary as the month of his father's death.

But if Christopher Sladen wants to back up the mid-winter theory he only has to look at Hamlet's arrival on the hattlements - "The air hites shrewdly, it is very cold" --which would seem to justify Kenneth Branagh's snow. IAN FLINTOFF *London SW6*

Act now to curb latest CJD risk

Sir: Yes, too little action was taken on BSE and too late; and indeed the Government was told at the time what to do by scientists who were ignored (Who deserves censure for BSE?", 14 February; letters 17 February).

But always the problem with a long-incubation period epidemic is that you have to take action before proof of danger is available, and the Government decided to wait for the proof. Labour may arrive in

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Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

power with the same problem for the new variant of CJD. We cannot know the number of people that will die of the disease, but these are the people donating blood at the moment and a recent article in Nature would indicate that one in 200-300 blood donations may be from an infected person to an uninfected one.

Labour may not realise it, but no research funding has been put into looking for methods of treatment under the current government and such a complex development may take 10 years. Again action has to be taken

hefore certainty is available ... or again it will be too late. Dr STEPHEN DEALLER Consultant Medical Microbiologist Burnley, Lancashire

'Crimewatch' and copycats Sir. With reference to Jonathan

Foster's report on the murder of Eve Howells, ("The family who killed their mother", 12 February), l am deeply concerned that a statement made by a 15-year-old murder defendant has been accepted by your newspaper as fact without any attempt at verification. I refer to the claim made that: Glenn was inspired by the Crimewatch programme to take a

hammer to his mother." As an appeals programme committed to helping solve serious crimes, Crimewatch UK operates under strict internal guidelines

which are rigidly adhered to at all times. One of these is never to reveal details which might encourage or assist copycat crimes. In all the reporting about Glenn Howells's testimony, no reference is made to a specific case featured on the programme. SEETHA KUMAR Series Producer, Crimewatch UK

Gun move illegal

London W12

Sir: I am very concerned that a great injustice is about to he enacted by Parliament regarding the Firearms Amendment Bill "Lords inflict triple defeat on Tories over guns ban", 5 February).

I must question Parliament's right to confiscate legally held property (full bore pistols) from a British subject. Article 12 of the Bill of Rights

1689 clearly states that a person's property cannot be confiscated unless they have been convicted of a crime. IAN SUMMERELL Tickenham, North Somerses

A rabbi for all Sir: The late Rabbi Hugo Gryn ("In

life this man was the best-loved rahhi in Britain; his death is tearing the Jewish community apart", 17 February) never claimed to represent Jewry as a whole, However, he personified all that is best in Judaism and humanity, and it would surely become Jews of every ilk to emulate and celebrate his life in a spirit of unity. LINDA RENE-MARTIN London NW8

Pride in our maritime past

Sir: Three cheers for the sentiments expressed by Professor Kennedy in his lecture at Churchill College, hailed by Andreas Whittam Smith (article, 10 Fehruary).

How many of the people involved in the plans for the millennium centred on Greenwich or the Masterplan for improving the Thames are even aware of the great maritime heritage of the area?

Hidden along the banks of the Thames between Southwark and Blackwall are the remains of Britain's greatest maritime achievement in the age of sail. About 1400 East Indiamen from 300 to 1400 tons - in an age when most maritime trade, coastal and oceanic. was carried on in boots of 100 tons or less - were built in the merchant

yards between 1600 and 1830. The Indiamen succeeded the Portuguese in discovering and exploiting the traditional trade routes of the eastern seas, skilfully and meticulously charting them and helping the Navy to defend them successfully against their European rivals. Together they created the foundations for British maritime supremacy in the 19th

century.

If the Thames were the Seine. the Masterplan for improving it would bring this great heritage to the public's notice. The far less significant and much shorter-lived French Compagnie des Indes has been officially promoted for years with a lavish extravagance quite alien to our narrow vision. JEAN SUTTON Bournemouth, Dorset

Sir. To the dismay of Richard Till, Director General of the Prison Service, Weymouth and Portland councillors are blocking plans to moor in Portland Harbour, Dorset, the prison ship Resolution, which is being brought from New York next month to maugurate a return to the hulk system of imprisonment (report, 11 February). Should we not go back a little

further in history - to the age of transportation - and ask the Australians if they could help us out once again? PEGGIE HUNTER Honorury Secretary
The Howard League, Scotland Edinburgh

Monied classes

Sir. Amidst the current frenzicd efforts to produce ideas which will improve the English educational system (leading article, 12 February), one fact is being ignored: the 7 per cent of the population who do not send their children to state schools happen to be the nation's rich and powerful.

Until they have a personal and direct interest in the quality of state schools, is it reasonable to expect much improvement? The point here is not to pursue the vindictive and self-defeating goal of "abolition" of private schools, but to harness the best of them to the state sector. PETER RAINEY Maidstone, Kent

Wartime weather

Sir: How weary I am of bearing the weather presenters forecast our weather on television. They make it sound like the threat of a bombing air raid. Why can't they just tell us calmly what we're going to get?

JANET'S HIND DUFF Wallasey, Merseyside

be title bas had many worthy own-

ers over recent

years: Madame

Mao, Iodira

Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher,

even - during her brief moment of public favour - Hillary Rod-bam Clinton. But over the pre-

sent holder there can be no argument. The label of Most

Powerful Woman in the World is now affixed to Madeleine Korbel Albright, who today

Hers is a remarkable personal story, the "American Dream" made flesh anew, this

time in the person of a Czech girl who flees totalitarianism for

the Land of the Free, where she rises to become the first female Secretary of State, the highest

office ever held by a woman. But for the disqualification of her foreign birth, she would be fourth in line for the presi-

dency. The ascent has followed a classic American pattern, a

mixture of hard work and indi-

vidual ability, and skill at making contacts which matter.

In Ms Albright's case, the

hlend propelled her to key

Democratic backroom foreign policy jobs at the White House and on Capitol Hill, then to Georgetown University and the

ambassadorship at the United Nations, before Bill Clinton

The disclosures about her Jewish ancestry, which she handled with grace and com-

posure, geoerated only passing turbulence. Most extraordinary of all, nobody whispered that this most "diversity-conscious"

of presidents had picked her because of her sex, to reward the women's vote which re-

Madeleine Albright got the job, it was universally agreed, because she was the best candidate. And it might be added,

retary's Boeing jet. Unsurpris-

ingly, this début round-the-

elected him.

artives in London.



chose her last November for "We do not run a cookle-cutter foreign policy." Albright is likely to be more Interventionist but astute in her choice of enemies the most senior job in his sec-ond-term Cahinet.

Meet the most powerful woman in the world

the most media-genic. Where her predecessor Warworld trip was four times oversubscribed. In the days of Warren Christopher, the press section was not infrequently ren Christopher was cautious and shy, holding a TV camera in about the same affection as

half-empty.
This shoot-from-the-lip style the reared bead of a cobra, she is assertive, outspoken and adores the spotlight. is both a blessing and a curse. "My mindset is Munich, not The arid legal style of Mr Christopher was bard enough to understand in English. Not only does Ms Albright questioners: and indeed selfdoubt is not one of her most visible qualities. "Please look dispense soundbites; she can do so in her native Czech, in passelsewhere" will he the sign posted on the State Departable Russian, and as an ever prickly Paris discovered to its ment door for menacing dictators demanding appeasement, at least while Ms Albright is pleasure this week, in decent French as well. There are a dozen press seats on the Sec-

remains a more likely paradigm

Self-doubt is not one of her problems. She is hawkish. She shoots from the lip. Madeleine Albright was not an equal opportunities choice for United States Secretary of State, says Rupert Cornwell

affecting America in the post-Cold War era. Dictators are an eternal breed, but these days they are mostly of the tinnot variety. Saddam Hussein is under siege from within, North Korea is a threat because of its weakness, not its strength. The rest of the field, starting with Unfortunately, Vietnam Fidel Castro, scarcely counts. Rather, today's post-Soviet

for a "bot" foreign policy crisis world, with its more complex US foreign policy would seek in is another matter – but the fault-lines, offers more subtle dangers, whereby America might find itself sucked into a treacherous military involvement overseas to protect perceived national interests. The Bosnian rapids have thus far been successfully nav-

igated. But a major crisis in the Korean peninsula or the Gulf (an Islamic fundamentalist nprising in Saudi Arabia is the ultimate nightmare) would be infinitely trickier for the US. To intervene or not to intervene? When, and in what quantity, are American casualties justified? Ms Albright is on the "hawkish" end of almost any foreign policy spectrum, less squeamish about the use of American force abroad than most of her colleagues. But by her own admission, she is no Metternich or Kissinger, and no "Albright Doctrine" exists. And in an interlocking yet fragmented international landscape, that is perhaps as well. In this age, an imaginative

f you believe what you

read in the papers, the

modern life are - which way

going to vote in the Commons, whether the Daily

Mail would be a lot better at

running the justice system than Michael Howard, and if

John Cleese's new film is any

these problems is worth the

paper they are printed on, or

May I suggest that none of

good or not.

the Ulster Unionists are

three biggest problems of

not so much grand designs, but accommodations and new channels of communications with old foes - and in the case.

of Havana at least, some such may already be happening. A year ago, Castro's shootingdown of two small unarmed civilian aircraft piloted by Cuban exiles from Miami prompted the most celebrated Albright soundbite, that the deed was "not cojones [testicles], but cowardice" - and in the uproar provoked in the US by the incident, President Clinton signed the infamous Helms-Burton Act, placing sanctions on foreign companies which do business in Cuba.

elms-Burton of course still drives the Europeans to distraction, but just last week, the Administration broke with three decades of American policy by authorising 10 US news organisations to open bureaux in Cuha. Whether Fidel will let them all shouting match of the deaf may be drawing to a close.

Bolder still would be a similar opening towards Iran. This month, the US is sending its first ambassador to Hanoi, normalising relations with a country that inflicted humiliation upon America even greater than Tehran when it turned US embassy personnel into hostages 17 years ago. But all the US has for Iran is abuse, even though the absence of ties with the most powerful state in the region weakens its hand in understanding, and dealing with, the overlapping crises of the Gulf and the Middle East. Could it be Madeleine Albright who cor-rects this lacuna? Perhaps, though there is nothing in her

record to suggest so. On most issues, however, the sharper Albright rhetoric will herald little change in substance. Nato expansion, to which Mr Clinton committed himself irrevocably last Octo-

Seen the film? Now buy the Taoiseach

ber, was as likely to go ahead under Mr Christopher as Ms Albright, Her task this week in Moscow will not be to sell the Russians on a scheme they detest but know they cannot halt - but to avoid giving extra gratuitous offence to hardliners and further weakening the

sickly Boris Yeltsin. On China too, she must obey geopolitical reality. Why, she was once asked, did Washington not treat Peking as harshly as Cuba, although its abuse of democracy and human rights was at least as egregious? For once a soundbite reply was honest, "We do not run a cookic-cutter foreign policy." Which, translated, means, China is simply too hig and powerful to be brushed aside. After Moscow she travels to Peking, where Ms Albright will warn her hosts of the perils of clamping down too harshly in Hong Kong after July 1. She will speak forthrightly too about human rights, trade violations and arms proliferation - but all

Her foreign policy team too reflects deliberate and reassuring continuity. Strobe Talbott, Mr Clinton's close friend from their Rhodes Scholar days at Oxford, is staying on as Deputy Secretary of State, while the

third ranking official will be the former ambassador to the Soviet Union, Thomas Pickering, widely seen as the ablest US career diplomat of his generation. Dennis Ross, the tenacious negotiator who served under both Presidents Bush and Clinton, will remain as troubleshooter for the Middle East, an area with which Ms Albright has had little direct dealing. The revelations over her background (of which the Israeli Government is said to have been aware since 1994) are unlikely to have much impact on views of her in a region which has already survived the close attentions of one emigré, Jewish-born, Secretary of State, in Henry Kissinger.

However, on the problem closer even to British bearts than Hong Kong. a subtle change of policy may be in the making. Washington still wants to promote a peace in Northern Ireland, but the naive enthusiasm of three years ago has been tempered by the realities of the last 12 months. The hureaucratic cards have also been shuffled, with the depar-ture of Tony Lake and Nancy Soderberg, the White House Co-officials who argued most powerfully for the Gerry Adams visa in 1994. Ulster policymaking may therefore slip back into the orbit of the State Department, where Ms on the Irish problem may be more content to follow the lead of London and Dubliz, Allthis adds up to less sympathy for the nationalists. But in truth, so much has been evident here ever since the bomb a Cantry Wharf, Sinn Fein fundmisingin the US is said to have dropped

But the title of World's Most Powerful Woman is not decided merely by the nuclea throwweight at ber disposal. At least in this her honeymoon phase, Madeleine Albright also packs a political punch natched among recent Secretaries of State only by James Baker and Dr Kissinger himself.\Hillary Clinton is among her learest friends, while Mr Tabott is another line to the OvalOffice,

should it be required. She is adored by feminists, yet at ber Senate confirmation hearings that conservative scourge of the State Lepartment and all things foreign, the Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms wa eating from her hand. Onceponfirmed, her first foray rom Washington was not aboad, but to Houston, to seek cunsel from a former Republian president, George Bush, and Mr Baker. Next month meeover, she will go to Mr Hela's home state of North Carolia to deliver a major polity address. Such is the art of su cessful foreign policy building Support begins at home - an without it. Ms Albright will no achieve her crucial goals of more funding for the State Department, and repayment

of America's \$1bn UN arrears. Even with Mr Helms on her side, she may yet fall But scarcely has a Secretary of State's first month been as

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Scottish.

Once upon a time, we

pronounce Irish names cause the only Irish names that ever came our way were easy ones like Oscar, and Eamonn, and WB, and Seumas, and we thought there was nothing more to it. We were wrong. In the last 10 years, the stakes have been upped, starting with the necessity to say "Taoiseach" out loud, pronounced something like "T-shirt", and going on without a let-up to Sinead, Siobhan, Maire, Sian, and Daire Breban, all of which we are now

at least that neither you nor f spend much time discussing them? Because we sense that expected to get right without they are not real problems. raising our eyebrows. In fact, Today's real problems are one or two in that list are elsewhere. We in this almost certainly not Irish hut modern age have built up a Weish or Scottish, which whole new selection of brings us on to another problems which have never

problem: that of existed before, many of distinguishing one kind of Celt from another yet. Send which we face every day, and none of which ever hits the for our little free booklet, "If Sean Connery is Scottish, why Indeed, bardly any of them in the name of the pibroch has has ever been mentioned in a he got an Irish name? How to avoid other

national newspaper before. So today I am bringing you a selection of these problems peculiar to our age. How to pronounce Irish

thing for keeping the rain off, but it is also a handy thing for getting entangled in, and until someone invents English felt that we could a flat-sided or bouncy

people's umbrellas.

An umbrella is a handy



Miles Kington

umbrella, we will go on down the high street crashing into other brollies. We are beginning to evolve some kind of rudimentary instinct to deal with this (tall person lift his brolly, short person, go under tall person's, etc), but it is not as sure-footed as our tackling of the next problem, which is...

How to manoeuvre a supermarket trolley without hitting the opposition.

Over the past bundred or more years, we have learnt how to walk along crowded pavements without colliding

very often into people coming the other way. Nobody knows how, but we have. And now we have started to evolve the same sort of instinct in Sainsbury's and Waitrose and Tesco. Nobody tells us to keep to the left or right, hut by some sort of instinct, we tend to know which way the other person is heading and go the other way. Very often, it is the same person we avoided in the previous aisle and the one before that. Actually, that's another problem whether or not to smile at someone you have never met before, except just now in fresh veg. and again in toiletries and again in sauces and again, fleetingly, in the aisle containing those big party packs of ice-cream that nobody ever seems to buy. How to fill in time at the

Modern living is full of enforced waiting. We are told that it is non-stop action, but this is not so. A lot of modern life is spent in immobility and inactivity -while we wait at a service station with petrol nozzle in hand for the car to fill up, or. stand in a bank queue, or

wait for red lights to change. or wait for our number to be called, or wait for the railway guard to say: "We are sorry for this delay" - but the worst of all is waiting in a queue at a supermarket when you have chosen the slowest queue, and the people in front of you tale so long to pack their purchases, and then can't find their cheque book, of the price label has come df the piece of fresh ginger, and the cashier has rung the supervisor to come and help, but the supervisor ha just gone off for her tea break or secret swig of

Personally, I always take book to read in the queue. Unfortunately, many cashica suspect that you must have bought the book in the shop, so it pays to take a large, second-hand out-of-print

More modern problems next time, including security-camera cricked neck, inability to remember which way clockwise is, irrational conviction that the Oscars at important, post-bicycle-clip trouser-stress, etc etc.

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Course what a call often many case the si North tree Later miles on have a then the least in past Runnigh by toustrain the transport of tracers with our ton our Labor those strup in the man

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line year at a e

The voices that may dash all hopes of reform

ow dare he? For pure political advantage, John Major has decided, entirely cynically, to go to the country on a platform of electoral gerrymandering. His plans, among the most dangerous ever put before the electorate, threaten the future of the centuries-old United Kingdom. He is imposing an undemocratic fix on the British

Having sold out Parliament's ancient powers to Brussels, he is now intent on forcing a choice on the Scots which he suspects and hopes will lead to the disintegration of the British Union. And in England, he is hitterly opposed to a fairer voting system for one reason, and one only - that it undermines his own party's

grip on power and patronage. He even wants to retain hereditary peers in order to enjoy for himself and his friends the comforts of office. Consistency and logic are cast aside. Has there ever been a more shameful, cynical prospectus put before the voters than this?

Readers may detect an unusually strident tone here, even a note of ranting hysteria. Well, you are right if you have. As it happens, I think Mr Major's hostility to Scottish and Welsh devolution, his support for hereditary peers and even his opposition to electoral reform are positions he holds honestly and independently of party advantage; that he has thought them through and that he is making a case which,

though I disagree with it, is respectable.

The ranting tone, however, was merely the effect of applying Mr Major's own recent rhetoric to opposition policies. His hyperbole about the end of a thousand years of history has been ridiculed sufficiently already. But by accusing his opponents of lacking any motives beyond shallow party self-interest, the Prime Minister is using cheap shots.

With an important Commons debate on the constitution scheduled for tomorrow, Tory strategists ought to ask themselves whether they really want an election campaign so degraded and hysteria-tinged. And Mr Major personally might reflect that be is using a style of populist ranting which he loathes and resents when it is practised against him by the hardline anti-Europeans of the right.

So what is he on about? And, while we're at it, why do we hear so little self-confident argument about the case for electoral and political reform from Labour? The answer in both cases is about the same: pressophobia.

The Prime Minister and Mr Blair share the

the same began and

Paoiseaci

characteristic of being obsessed by the threats and opportunities offered by the press. Mr Major has always been much too interested in courting journalists and proprietors, and reads - though this may have changed recently - far too much about himself. Mr Blair is fascinated by the danger posed by The Sun and the Daily Mail, and by the idea of neutralising them or winning them over. If the circumstances were different, what a conversation the two men could enjoy on the subject!

At one level, of course, they are right: newspapers can have a great effect, particularly when they hunt in packs. They are as much part of the electoral process as booths and pencils. It would be foulish for any Tory leader to let the Telegraph's friendship slip through his fingers, or for any Labour one carelessly to anger those sharp little men at The Sun. In the present case this means, for Mr

about the

constitution

to shore up

his support.

Mr Blair

is talking

too quietly

for exactly

the same

falsetto-Churchillian oom-pahpah. His speech in Wales gave the impression that it was our last stand against the Nazi menace. If he goes on about the destruction of a thousand years of happy British history at the hands of wild-eyed Edinburgh legislators, perhaps his nation-alist critics might belt up about Maastricht.
For Mr Blair, the calcula-tions are different. His camp thinks the right-wing papers will be unimpressed by the bursts of Mr Major is bellowing

Major, the need to blur the great issue where he differs

from the Tory papers - Euro-pean Union - with the maxi-

num amount of flashy, postur-

ng, British Lion-bothering,

patriotic music from No 10. Courad Black, Vere Rothermere and Rupert Murdoch, and their editors and commenta-tors, will keep their eyes on the bigger picture. They will toler-ate, and even privately welcome, a modest period of New Labour government, while the Tory party sorts itself out before returning as a fully armed and vigorous opponent of European federalism - the real enemy.

It follows that there could be nothing more damaging to Labour's relations with the press than the admission that Mr Blair is thinking of electoral reform. Why? Because that would threaten the Tory right's chances of taking power again in the early 2000s – and perhaps ever. For the rightist press, four years of Mr Blair might be tolerable; but a radical realignment of politics in foreign the case. of politics in favour of the centre-left certainly would not be.

This analysis creates particular difficulties for New Labour: they want to stay close to the Liberal Democrats, who might prove impor-tant after the election, and with whom Mr Blair has been engaged in a long, private bont of deal-making about the constitution. The Lib-Dems want electoral reform above all other earthly goods. Yet it is electoral reform and the reshaping of the constitution that Mr Blair wishes not to discuss, partly in order to avoid jeopardising his better relations with right-wing papers. The Lib-Dems need him to sound radical and challenging; but if that is how he sounds to the right-wing papers, they may yet turn against him and help put Mr Major back.

This hothouse thinking, these muttered

calculations in the mental corridor that connects newspaper offices and Westminster. explain why this argument about the future of Britain echoes so oddly in the clearer, brighter air outside. Mr Major is bellowing about the constitution in danger, in order to shore up his press support; Mr Blair is talking too quietly about reform, for exactly the same reason.

Tactically, both men seem to be behaving shrewdly. But are they? Knowing a fair num-ber of rightist commentators and editors, it seems to me that they understand the games being played perfectly well: when the time comes, they will play their game, and no one else's. It does not include reforming this nation. As an unabashed enthusiast for political reform, I am worried that the combination of flag-waving hyperbole from Mr Major however silly - and nervous throat-clearing from the other side - however sensible - may fatally damage the cause. That would be a great triumph for the Prime Minister - and he is a

formidable, if ranting, campaigner still.

The Opposition has learned quite a lot from him in the past few years. Perhaps, as they pre-pare for today's Commons debate on the constitution they need to learn one lesson more: you cannot crusade in a whisper.

The peace brought by the Taliban

by James **Fergusson**

oreign aid workers were not surprised when the Taliban opened a new political office in Peshawar, just over Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan. But they were surprised at its location, right in the middle of University Town, the city suburb so crowded with the offices of aid organisations that it is known by some as NGOland.

You can't miss their office: it is the one with the fantastically turbaned and bearded men loitering in silence outside. You can feel their stares as you pass down Old Bara Road. One of them recently squared up to a woman aid worker from Australia as she emerged from the bakery opposite, blocking her exit. He offered no violence – he didn't even speak - but the implication was clear enough: there were to be no unveiled women in their street.

The West, of course, has come to expect nothing less from the Taliban. From the moment they took Kabul last autumn, reports of the un-precedented severity of their version of Islam streamed from the Afghan capital. We have read about hangings for murder and amputations for theft. Music, we are told, is banned, as is the flying of kites. Most infamous of all, of course, is the oppression of women. They have been denied the right to work and be educated, and have been beaten for showing their faces on the streets, and in Kandahar, the Taliban capital, stoned to death for adultery. "The most fundamentalist nation in the world," said John Simpson as he bravely filmed a totem pole festooned with disembowelled television sets - and the West nodded in

Many Afghans, though, do not see it that way. Nor, even, do a growing number of Peshawar's aid workers, despite the bakery incident. For a start, the Taliban are nothing like as dogmatic as they have been portrayed. "There's a big difference between what the Taliban say and what they actually do," says Stuart Worsley, deputy director of Care International in Peshawar. "Some of the edicts that come out of the madrassas (religious schools] are pure Monty Python, and very often the guys on the ground choose not to enforce them." Women, in other words, are

not automatically beaten for showing their faces; no one is made to pray five times a day; and the education of girls is not universally forbidden. The Taliban is governed by consensus, not by imposition (a tactic which has never worked in Afghanistan, as the Russians found to their cost). Worsley cites the example of Ghazni, where the Taliban proposed converting the local school into a madrassa: when the public complained, the Taliban imme-



The Islamist militia reviled by the West are increasingly popular in Afghanistan

diately backed down. "The enforcement of rules usually depends on local tradition," says Worsley.

But even the official line on girls' education is changing: from March 6, the start of the new school term, the Taliban have agreed to reopen girls' schools in the all-important Kabul area. This concession was the fruit of a Unicef brokered meeting in Herat at the end of last month - the first of its kind between the Taliban and a Western organisation.

It is only a small step towards resuming human rights, but its significance is clear. "The Taliban always said they would do three things once they were recognised as legitimate," says Worsley. "They promised to stop exporting terrorism, stop exporting drugs, and bring back the girls' schools. The fact they have given a date for the schools shows that they're feel-

ing more secure." The Taliban have good rea-son to feel secure. Although the military advance northward has been checked at the Salang tunnel, no one believes they will ever have to take that obstruction by force, least of all the Taiiban themselves. The defence alliance north of the tunnel has been quietly imploding all. winter. Inflation among the currencies used by General Abdul Rashid Dostam is reported to have reached 100 per cent per week. In time, the Taliban are convinced, the hard-pressed people of the northern areas will come over to their side.

The men inside the Peshawar political office sit cross-legged and in silence on a carpet. They have the intense light of religious conviction in their eyes; a gun cupboard in the corner is kept discreetly locked. everyone else at Nasir Bagh, has "Our success is due only to the little doubt." fact that the people want us to succeed," says their spokesman, Amruddin. "We have imposed nothing but peace."

It sounds unlikely, but the Taliban have indeed brought peace. Those parts of Afghanistan that they control - 65 per cent of the population, and a much greater percentage geographically - are now safer than at any period in the last 17 years. The road blocks manned by rapacious or even psychopathic militiamen are a thing of the past. The rural population no longer in need of guns for self-protection, has been disarmed. Parmers have begun to replant their crops, safe in the

able to take them to market. Banditry has been eradicated. "It is possible to sleep at nights now," says Mahmad Amin, who used to be a driver for Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, exprime minister and leader of the

Hezb-i-Islami party, but is now pro-Ialiban, "All Afghans are pro-Taliban," he adds, "except for some educated Kabulis who still think like the Communists."

camps that surround Peshawar. He says he intends to return to his country the moment the Taliban have unequivocally won - an outcome of which he, like The Taliban may represent

Amin lives at Nasir Bagh, the

largest of the Afghan refugee

Afghanistan's best chance for stability, but there is more to Amin's optimism than that. It is hard for the West to accept, but the Taliban are, in fact, a popular movement.

They were quite right to ban music," says Amin. "People had learnt some very bad habits." He goes on to define two kinds of music: the kind where men play the instruments and women dance, which is "disgraceful", and the kind where men play and young boys dance; "That's perfectly OK." The creed expanded by the

Taliban has less to do with Koranic fundamentalism than with Pashtunwali, the tribal code of the Pashtuns, who straddle the Afghan-Pakistani border and account for about half of Afghanistan's population. The basic tenets of Pashtunwali are honour, revenge and respect for private property; its currency is women, land and money.

What has been portrayed in the West as the excess of new Islamic zeal is in fact part and parcel of a far older tradition. That is why the unworldly Taliban were genuinely astonished when they were criticised for confining Kabuli women to their homes - a move intended, they said, for their own protection. Of course, not all Afghans are happy with the Taliban. And there is a long way to go

before their treatment of women can be considered acceptable. Nevertheless, they have brought peace and security to a region ravaged by war: and if they can maintain it, they may be the best thing to have happened to Alghanistan for many years.

Tune in to the last of the dinosaurs

Channel Five has come too late for the revolution in our TV viewing, writes Hamish McRae

K. so if we are going to watch television. A couple of the new Charmel Five schedules recent studies have released vesterday, what will we

not watch instead? The point is simple enough. There is a finite amount of time that people are prepared to allocate to watching a screen. That amount of time may be far higher than anyone could have envisaged a generation ago, but it is no longer rising. So the people who are lured by Channel Five will be lured away from everything else.

But, of course, Channel Five is the last of a breed; a new channel designed to win mass audiences. We are on the brink of the digital revolution, the technology which, with satellite and cable, will make not five, not 50, hut thousands of channels available. Indeed the whole idea of a channel may disappear, if we move to a world in which people watch what they want, when they want, rather than having to watch something chosen by someone clse, at the particular time it happens

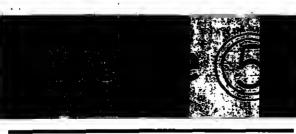
to be broadcast. To this comucopia of television is added the mass of audio-visual material coming in to computer screens through the Internet. Expect the quality and availability of that to be transformed over the next five years, as modem speeds rise, the technical capability of the system improves, and the volume of information and

entertainment soars. obviously time spent not watching

habits of people connected to the Internet. Unsurprisingly, Internet homes watch less television; and not just actults. Internet children also spend less time watching it. So conventional television charnels face a double

squeeze: there will be much more material and rather less time to watch it. Something has to give. What will that be? There are two analogies that help us glimpse the future of television.

One is cinema; the other is magazines. Anyone who can think back to the Thirties, Forties or even early Fifties will recall the dominance of cinema. Many of the palaces of the movie industry, built mostly in the Thirties, still remain in our high streets, but are either converted to bingo halls or are multiplexed. Between 1950 and the early Eighties there was a steady, inexorable decline in cinema attendance. True, there has now been a recovery; and true, the total revenue from films, including video releases, television sales, receipts from merchandise and so on has buttressed the fall in income from burns on seats. But Time spent at a computer screen is from the perspective of 1950 there has



The value will be in the programme, not the channel

Alongside that decline has been a shift in power, away from the studios and towards the stars: they have become brands in themselves, and extract a higher proportion of the reward. Apply these factors to the television industry and you can argue that it is facing a similar future: a long, inexorable squeeze on its revenues.

Already advertisers are aware that it is virtually impossible to use television to reach busy people, the very people who tend to be high earners and so particularly attractive to advertisers. The pressures on time to watch any particular programme are likely to grow, so advertisement revenue will tend to be squeezed still further. And not just squeezed; it will also be spread more thinly, as programmes proliferate, and revenues tend to come from subscriptions. Meanwhile more and more value will be extracted by the stars. The stars in television may be a cup final, a "must see", time-critical event, rather than individuals. But the point is the same: the value will be in the programme, not in the channel. We don't care whether Blind Date is distributed by the Beeb or ITV. And when there are a thousand channels, we will care even less.

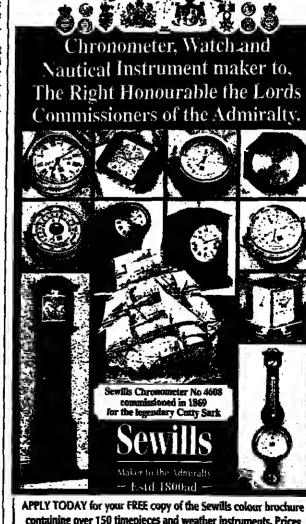
Now look at the magazine model. Go into a newsagent's and look at the immense degree of specialisation in the magazine area: you want to know about the best dives in the Maldives, so you find several mags on scuba diving; or you want to buy a second-hand Bristol, so you fish out the ones on classic cars. Now and again, the magazine puhlishers spot a new market: the "new bloke" world of FHM and Loaded is the great fashionable discovery of the last couple of years.

The infinite variety comes not just from the fact that the mags are intensely specialised: they also come from all over the world. That is coming in television. I was told yesterday that we are five years away from being able to get a high quality television signal over a wireless phone link. So in theory you could go into a hotel in Chicago, plug your mobile phone into the side of the set and watch any programme from anywhere in the world. You could watch the US scuba-diving channel back in the UK. just as you can pick up a US-based magazine on the subject. Sure, we still buy a national news-paper, just as we will still watch mass-

market television. Sure, many of these magazine titles are owned by a handful of giant publishing empires. But entry to magazine publishing is much less closed than television is. As the latter opens up, the variety of the mag-azine rack will hit the screen. There is a further change coming

With that variety and, maybe a little later, the ability to time-shift (ie to watch a programme at the time of our choice, without a video-recorder), we will become our own programmers. Just as we allocate our own reading time, we can allocate our own viewing time. We will fast-forward the boring bits, dump the studio discussions, flip over the imitating adverts. Think of the shift of power from programmer to viewer that would result.

So as we welcome Channel Five let's remember that it is a dinosaur. It will be the last example of a massmarket channel to be started in the UK; the last new channel where the content is decided by a handful of highly paid people sitting in a plush office; the last which we will watch simply because it is there.



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Name:(Mr/Mrs/Ms-)_

Sir Frank Hartley

The Pharmaceutical Journal of October 1930 records the achievements of some prizewinning students of pharmacy, among them one Frank Hartley of Nelson, Lancashire. In one of its more prescient moods the journal wrote: "This is indeed a prosperous opening to what we are convinced is bound to be a notable career in pharmacy." The future Vice-Chancellor of London University and Dean of its School of Pharmacy had just won the Jacob Bell scholarship after attending Nelson Municipal Secondary School and winning in 1926 the Northern Universities School Certificate with exemption from matriculation.

He had had amhitions to become a schoolteacher. Finding him deaf in one ear, the county council withdrew its bursary. On the advice of a physics master, the young Frank then decided to enter pharmacy. So at 55 Railway Street, Nelson, in the pharmacy of J. Hayhurst, he began his three-year apprentice-ship. His plumber father had died when Frank was five, and life was obviously a far cry from the cushioned existence of many students today. Long apprenticeship hours were coupled with evening study at college.

He passed his preliminary scientific examination and also entered and won the Pharmaceutical Journal's practical chemistry competitions. He competed for a variety of scholarships open to hudding pharmacists. These included examinations not only in chemistry, physics, pharmacy and botany, but also required an English essay and serious attention to Latin, French or German, translating from and into the language sentences such as "Evaporation in the open air at the temperature of the atmosphere depends on that of the air, its hygrometric the subject in hand mastered state and on the speed of its movement".

The pharmacy apprentices of those days had hidden talents. Frank Hartley's would out. Obviously he was destined to practise more widely than the confines of a dispensary would allow. But the ritual of combined work and study was to continue. First came qualification as a "chemist and druggist", then at the Pharmaceutical Society's School of Pharmacy in Bloomshury Square. London, the diploma of pharmaceutical chemist. A medallist in nearly all his subjects, he hecame a demonstrator at the school and pursued at nearby Birkbeck College further part-time studies. He graduated with first class honours in Chemistry in 1936.

Now the goal was a PhD which he pursued under the direction of Professor W. Linnell when his teaching duties allowed. He became a Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the outbreak of the Second Hartley: plaiting ropes

World War. His teaching amhitions had been fulfilled at least. At the age of 29 Hartley hecame Chief Chemist of Organon laboratories, a suh-

sidiary of the Dutch company which had largely fallen under German control in Europe. Its strength was in steroids, compounds he returned to after the war when he joined British Drug Houses (BDH) as Director of Research and was involved in the development of the early oral contraceptives.

War brought great demands for antibiotics and the need to marshal the resources of industry to produce penicillin. The Therapeutic Research Corporation was charged with maximising penicillin production and initiating research into other antibiotics. The Ministry of Supply also had a Penicillin Committee. Hartley was appointed full-time secretary of the first and acted as secretary of the latter until 1946 when he joined BDH. BDH failed to market their oral contraceptive because of unacceptable sideeffects. This experience no doubt was one which gave Hartley some personal authority in his role in the Committee on Safety of Drugs when this was established years later and on the Medicines Commission (as Vice-Chairman, 1974-83).

He returned as Dean to his old college, the School of Phar-macy, in 1964, still known as "the Square", now ensconced in its new premises in Brunswick Square, where it maintains its independence and its long tradition of teaching and research in pharmacy, pharmacology and toxicology. While Dean, he served on many external and university committees. He excelled as a chairman, being direct in his confrontation of issues and always having beforehand.

Herbert Grainger recently commented that Frank Hartley "nearly always spoke at length, deploying it seemed, three or more lines of reasoning simultaneously, finally plaiting them into a rope on which he hoisted his now fatigued opponents". Not all took kindly to his pro-



Buttle, Professor of Pharmacology at the Square, also somewhat deaf, though selectively, after listening to a lengthy introduction to a meeting, asked pointedly if the Dean could repeat what he had said.

Hartley was elected Deputy Vice-Chancellor of London University in 1973 and made Vice-Chancellor in 1976, shortly thereafter demitting office as Dean of the Square. Throughout this period in academia he was active outside the university on advisory committees. From 1965 to 1967 he was President of the Royal Institute (now Society) of Chemistry. Naturally for a pharmacist, trained by apprenticeship and skilled in chemistry and pharmacy, he was long associated with the standards of drugs and medicines. He served on two important commissions, that on the prevention of microbial contamination of medicinal products, and the committees of enquiry into contaminated infusion fluids which followed from the Devonport fatalines. He worked tirelessly for the British Pharmacacopoeia (BP), and was chairman of the BP Commission from 1970 to 1980. Throughout the world the letters BP after a drug name signified its impeccable credentials. Pharmacopoeias are the embodiment of the standards of medicines ensuring their quality, a prelude to en-suring their safety and efficacy.

boards of governors and finance committees and councils of a wide array of bodies, the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness. Kingston Polytechnic, the Royal Free Hospital and St Thomas's Medical School. He was the first pharmacist to he made an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1979; later the Surgeons simi-larly honoured him. There were few facets of the profession of pharmacy that he did not touch, and he was knighted for his

Hartley also served on the

services to pharmacy. Frank Hartley's wife, Lydia, who supported him in all his endeavours, predeceased him by a few mouths. One of his sons, also Frank, is now Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield University.

A. T. Florence

Frank Hartley, pharmacist; born 5 January 1911; Director of Resantary 1911; Director of Re-search and Scientific Services, British Drug Houses 1946-62; Dean, School of Pharmacy, Lon-don University 1962-76, Fellow 1977; President, Royal Society of Chemistry 1965-67; CBE 1970; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, London University 1973-76, Vice-Chancellor 1976-78: Kt 1977; married



Walter Ritchie

The career of the sculptor Walter Ritchie provides the best 20th-century example of the artist as his own worst enemy.

In a time when recognition turns on regular showing of a man's work Ritchie only ever had two exhibitions, the second of them last year. The first was 20 years ago, at the London Building Centre, arranged by the Brick Development Association. The second was arranged by Kent County Council. He was not, you will gather, like other sculptors,

But then there were practi-cal difficulties to showing his work, not least the partial demolition of hanks, hospitals, colleges, churches, even part of the Oval cricket ground, for it was his belief that art should be on show in public places, a belief reflected in one of the first essays on his work, by the critic Margaret Aldred, published in the Monumental Journal in 1959, "The Street His Gallery". As he himself said ruefully, "I do seem to have made things difficult for myself."

At 18 he was commissioned by Warwickshire County Coun-cil to sculpt a mermaid riding 1937 Lydia England (died 1996; cil to sculpt a mermaid riding two sons); died Easenhall, a seahorse. They had assumed would ride side-the great wall separating the sur-the great wall separating the great wall separating th

saddle, hut Ritchie, a realist, showed her with legs, or rather tails, apart, which horrified the

He went on to horrify many councillors in the course of his professional life, In 1953 Coventry City Council commissioned two huge panels, and the result produced the re-markable headline "Brain Peeps Shock Peeping Tom City" in the old Daily Sketch:

Two surrealist peeps at a man's brain in action are causing a howl of protest. The hands and arms, serpents, fish, half-women and birds, have horrified Councillor Francis Walsh; "It's like something out of a horror comic."

It was not that he set out to shock or horrify, it was just that Ritchie went his own way. Commissioned by the Metropolitan Police in 1984 to do a wall, he submitted a design showing a dark figure running through a fingerprint, and there was no commission. "Most things go wrong," said Ritchie. He did not get the decimal coinage commission either, his design for the 10-pence piece had Boadicea in a chariot with a whip. Or, the great disappointment of his ca-reer, which came when he de-

viving third of Malmesbury Ahbey from its ruins. He want-ed panels, wild with action, depicting the Six Virtues, and there were 19 meetings of five committees across two and a half years, and again no

It did not help that be was in-terested in crotic sculpture. The magazine Men Only called in its lawyers when, in a 1978 issue, it decided to include a photograph of Ritchie's Yes!, a brick relief which was later bought by the directors of a London recording studio, who had been assured this study of copulation would do wonders for their acoustics.

Northampton Borough Council bought a series of brick panels but kept two of these in a walled garden locked most of the year. One which shows copulating lovers broke in two a few winters ago, but the council appears to be in no hurry to have them joined again. This would have delighted a man whose greeting on the phone was invariably "Grim as usual".

Ritchie was one of the last living apprentices of Eric Gill; he studied with him for just 18

He discounted the claims made about his old master's sexual exploits, "The man I knew was near death, working flat out. He couldn't have fitted it all in," said Ritchie.

Ritchie's training had begun

long before he met Gill. A car painter's son, he was already a fully competent sculptor at 18, having been trained by local masons. "They taught me how to hold a hammer and chisel. also the crowbar, a most useful tool." This left him fascinated hy sheer craft, so that when he was commissioned to do the 16ft-high panel Queen Elizabeth and the Washerwomen for the National West Bank in Bristol in 1979 he chose to do this as a relief in intaglio. This is rarely attempted now, for it involves cutting into marble itself just inches thick, when a single blow of the chisel could shatter the

recious stones. He carved in wood, marble, steel, stone, ivory, silver, gold, alahaster, in just about everything except fibre-glass. His particular love was the 1,500 va-rienes of hrick still made in Britain, which allowed him to

whole thing. Ritchie had to re-learn techniques the ancient

Cretans had used on semi-

and colour in a medium of the streets. It was also very difficult. some hricks being shattered, others shattering Ritchie's carving tools. His masterpiece is the sculpture of Len Hutton in action at the Oval cricket ground, created between 1988 and 1993, rising out of a hrick background.

Unlike modern sculptors like Henry Moore, Ritchic never had assistants. His mistakes and his limitations, as he put it, were thus entirely his own. Ho never mixed in metropolitan circles, though the critic Herbert Read, who took him up as a young man, often urged him to come to London to gain commissions.

Walter Ritchie lived for 57 years in the house to which his family had been evacuated after the bombing of Coventry. He took a holiday once, in 1955, when he went to the Lakes, but never took one again, having been alarmed by the financial insecurity he saw at first hand in his years with

Walter Ritchie, sculptor, born Coventry 27 April 1919; died Kenilworth, Warwickshire 12

Christopher Hohler

When in the 1970s the Registrar of the Courtauld Institute asked Christopher Hohler for an account of his activities for inclusion in the Annual Report, the reply he received was as

t have sublished no books or articles. in the period mentioned. Nothing I have been working on could be called a book. What I have been dorailed a book. What I have eventue-ing is preparing an article on "Some Early Manuscripts of English Polyphony" and another on William of Malmesbury and Glastonbury. I am investigating, for the benefit of two PhD candidates I am supervis-ing, the medieval calendars and hiss of churches in the ecclesiastical province of Reims . . . formally, my activities for the year in the Report will, as I think they must, appear as "nil". You know, and everyone else knows what I think of this kind of Report. The unprintable facts are, however, as above.

in fact. Hobler was one of a select band of scholars who shaped the Courtauld Institute in post-war Britain, making it for decades the most influential centre of art-historical study in the world. Yet his name is known to few except his colleagues and pupils and his publications were indeed limited to a small number of articles, but those which he did are of outstanding

quality and importance. He had no ambition to write books or to be quoted as the authority on any topic (although he was the authority on many). Rather, he found the past, especially the Middle Ages, endlessly intriguing, puzzling. attractive and funny. This he combined with a genial dislike of the modern world, especial-

ter Baldwin, consultant, Thomson

ly as represented by all things American. He was by hirth and by nature an aristocrat, whose opinions, although often politically incorrect, were always cogently expressed with wit and clarity.

His formidable intellect, nurtured both at Eton and at New College, was first directed towards archaeology, but, like many of his generation, his career was interrupted by the Second World War. This was mostly spent in Military Intelligence in the Middle East, where he stayed after the war to improve his Arabic. Returning to London in 1947 without a job, Dame Joan Evans the famous antiquary recommended him to Tom Boase at the Courtauld Institute and he worked there until he retired.

teacher derived from his vast, range of antiquarian knowledge and his lateral approach to academic problems. This was never hetter demonstrated than on the legendary Cour-tauld Summer Schools, organised and largely funded by Barbara and Charles Robertson of Bath, which took students and teachers to often remote ar-

eas, studying medieval art at first hand. My first experience of these was in Apulia, where we went to Frederick II's hunting palace at Castel del Monte. This symmetrical building provides two floors of identically shaped rooms, but Hohler had worked by analysing whether the doors opened inwards or outwards,

whether they had locks, the proximity of staircases and the provision of fireplaces.

Hohler expected his students to be equipped with the basic academic skills, which he regarded as the ability to read all major languages, both ancient and modern, and an understanding of all the different disciplines of medieval scholarship. Not surprisingly, these requirements were daunting to number failed to last the course with him. However, those that did were richly rewarded and his generosity with his own learning was exceptional. A list of the doctorout exactly who used each one al theses which he supervised ranges from tombs in Bosnia to stained glass in Lincolnshire and

Dominican patronage in Italy. He contributed in a huge but largely unseen way to the puhlications of others. In retirement, living in Oslo, he kept in touch with his friends and former pupils through his extensive correspondence. A letter from Hohler, in his immaculate minuscule handwriting and closely covering several pages on both sides, would always provide the recipient with an amazing range of scholarly com-

questions to ask. His own research started with an unfinished dissertation on St Gilles-du-Gard and progressed through his contributions to the published study of the relics of St Cuthbert, to his work on the medieval pilgrim-

ment, new leads to follow and

age to Santiago da Compostela and on Stavanger Cathedral. He was immensely widely read, especially in antiquarian research, and his knowledge of medieval texts was extensive. But all this learning was carried with an effortless charm and his friends will remember him with a Gauloise in one hand, a glass of whisky in the other, exploding with glee over the absurd antics of some little known medieval personage.

Edward Christopher Hohler, his-torian and art historian: bern 22 January 1917; Lecturer, Courtauld Institute of An 1947-64, Reader 1964-79; twice married (four sons, three daughters); died Oslo 15 February 1997.



Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

GYMER / FLORENCE: On 12 Febru ary, to Keith and Julia, at Welwyn Gar-den City, a third beloved son. Thomas Francis, a brother for William and Robert and a bonus for all. HARTLEY: Andrew and Julie announce the birth of their daughter. Nicola Jean, on 18 February, at 1 Janu.

DEATHS

BEESON: Josephine Grace, on 18
February, Death loved wife of Trecor
and mother of Jean and Catherine.
Funeral Requiem at Wirehester
Cathedral on Saturday 22 February
at Sam, Evensong and Thanksciving.
Saturday 22 March at 5,30pm, Famjiy flowers only please, but donations
if desired to Friends of Wirehester
Cathedral, Deanery Contage, The
Close, Winchester SO23 91.5.

LODGE: Sir Thomas, FRCR FRCP February 1997, Much-loved father of February 1997. Much-loved father of Creenagh and Anion, and husband of the late Aileen. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church. Kensing-ton High Street, on Monday 24 Feb-niary 1997 at 1230pm, and afterwards at The Belvedere, Holland Park. Inat The Belvedere, Housand rate and terment will take place privately on Tuesday 25 February, Family flowers only to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 2606 Fulham Read, London SW10 9EL, Telephone 0171-352 0008.

Birthdays The Duke of York, 37; Maj-Gen Pe-

Foundation, 70; Sir John Collycar, former chairman, USM Texon. 70: The Rev Gwynne Henion Davies. Principal Emerius, Regent's Park College. Oxford, 91; Sir Nicholas Fenn, former High Commissioner to India, 61: Lord Forbes, Premier Lord of Scotland, 79: Lord Henniker. former diplomat. 81; Mr Andrew lameson, swimmer, 32; Dr Robin Jeffrey, chairman and chief executive. Scottish Nuclear, 58; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis player, 35; Pro-fessor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 82: Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 58: Sir John N. Nicholson, former chairman, Occan Steam Ship Co, 86; Sir Daniet Penin former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 82; Mrs Erin Pizzey, founder of battered wives' homes, 58; Mr Peter Price, former MEP, 55; Mr Smokey Robinson. singer, 57; Mr Colin Sharman, senior pariner, KPMG, 54; Miss Gwen Taylor, actress, 58; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman, LWT

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Anniversaries

Rirths: Nicolaus Conemicus, as tress, 1911, Deaths: Charles Blondin tight-rope walker, 1897; André-Paul-Guillaume Gide, povelist, 1951. On Guillaume Gide, novelist, 1951. On this day: the Peace of Westminster was signed, under which New Netherlands (New York) became British, 1674; the phonograph was parented by Thomas Alva Edison, 1878; the Soviet Union agreed to the Soviet Grant Care Chee 1962. withdraw its forces from Cuba, 1963, Today is the Feast Day of St Barbatus, St Beatus of Liebana, St Boniface of Lausanne. Si Conrad of Piacenza and St Mesrop.

Lectures

National Gallery: Nicola Kalinsky 'Gainsborough liii): 'a kind of magick', Gainsborough and the portrai Tate Gallery: Clement Page, "Picasso: appropriating classical art, syn-thesising Modernist form", 1pm. Loughborough University: Professor Michael Smith, "The European

al Association of British Davy Frances, process the Princes Reval Award of Batchingham Falace, open Meadon Wood School, Bookhey, Harth ordshire and at Patres, International Health Entinges, attacks the British of the Code of Best Parceauer. Broad Science of Maskens, London Wi. The Data of Reas, Vig. Charman, British Owners, Brade Board orgent Electron Losers for Industry, Groupers Part. Letthrougher Ridge Rogals Lid. Lethworther and visit Lamour Medica Lid. Ting Industry Letter, Data. Changing of the Guard
The Hunchold Covolty Monte of Reposet
the Quern's Life Goard at Horse Guards. 1

Union and Concepts of Negotiated

Order in Europe 7, 6pm.

Cancelling direct debit was like dishonouring cheque

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Thorpe, Sir John Balcombe) S February 1997

A payment by direct debit, like a payment by cheque, was to be treated as equivalent to cash. in that no defence of set-off should be available to a person sued for breach of a contract under which such payments were to he made for goods already supplied.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown dissenting on the above point) allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Esso Petroleum Co Ltd, against the decision of Judge Anthony Thompson QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge in Exeter on 21 June 1996, who dismissed Esso's application for summary judgment against the defendant, Howard James

Milton, for £167,885.81 The defendant was the licensee of two of Esso's service stations, which he occupied and managed under successive three-year agreements. It was a condition of these agree-

ments that he bought all his fuel from Esso and that he paid for it by direct debit.

The price at which he sold the fuel was fixed by Esso. In 1996 Esso began its "price watch" initiative to help it com-

pere with supermarket chains who had begun to sell cut-price petrol. Esso lowered its prices and increased the rents charged to its licensees. The defendant complained that he could not continue profitably to run his service stations. He took the view that the husiness relationship between them was Between I and 9 April 1996

Esso made 12 fuel deliveries to the two service stations. On 9 April the defendant cancelled the direct debit instruction by which such deliveries were paid for. Esso gave the defendant notices purportedly terminating his licence agreements and sued him for the outstanding

LAW REPORT

19 February 1997 Esso's application for sum-

mary judgment was refused, however, and the defendant was granted unconditional leave to defend. He admitted Esso's claim but counterclaimed for damages for repudiatory hreach of contract, which damages he sought to set off in extinction of Esso's claim. Esso argued that no such

right of equitable set-off was available. Under the direct dehit scheme the debtor should be subject to the same restrictive rules, as to the stay of judgments and the scope of defences, which applied with regard to dishonoured cheques. Reliance was placed on Nova (Jersey) Knit Ltd v Kammgarn Spinneri GmbH [1977] 1 WLR 713 in which the House of Lords refused to allow a plaintiff's action upon a dishonoured hill of exchange to be stayed pending the resolution of the defedant's counterclaim for unliquidated damages: see per Lord Wilberforce at p 721. er should have the security

The defendant's case was that a distinction should be made between the debtor's mandate and the creditor's request for payment under the direct dehit system: the mandate did not constitute a cheque; and the request, far from being a signed instrument equivalent to cash provided by the debtor, was drawn rather by the creditor. What the defendant had done was to dishonour a promise, not a cheque. Mark Hapgood QC (Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield) for Esso; Michael Soole (Anstey Surgent & Probert, Excter) for

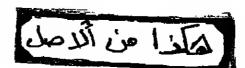
Lord Justice Thorpe accepted Esso's argument on the direct debit issue. Whilst conscious of the difficulties and dangers involved in such an extension, his Lordship believed it was con-sistent with the principle stated by Lord Wilherforce in 1977. Where goods were effectively sold for cash, the sellmutual convenience the parties had adopted the banking mechanisms in general usage for the transfer of cash from one account to another.

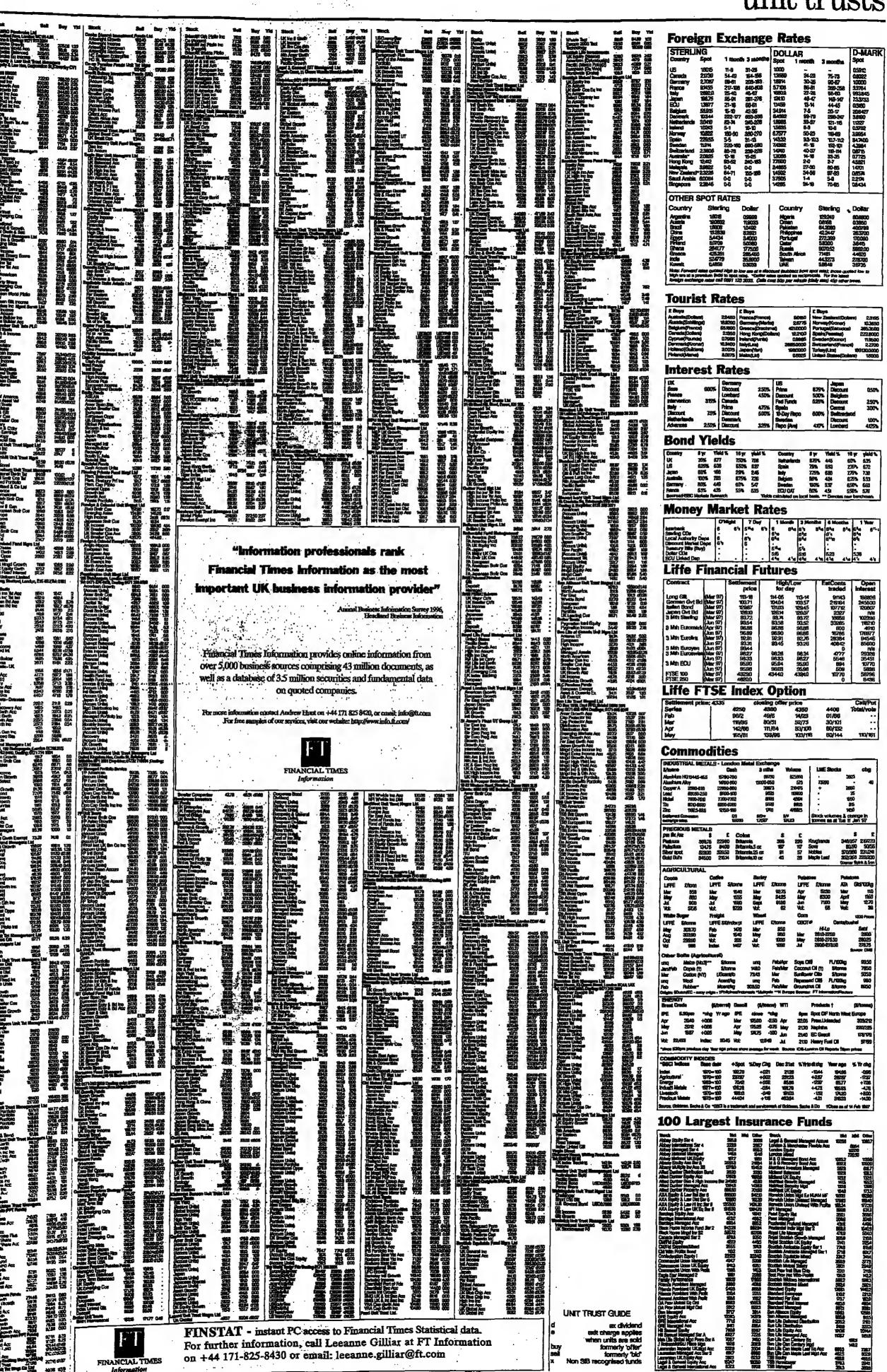
Twenty years ago that was still by cheque. Theoretically the tanker driver could demand a signed cheque on arrival for an amount to be written in when ascertained by completion of the fuel delivery. But Esso's daily petrol sales varied between £9m and £20m and the modern mechanism for handling what were effectively cash sales on that scale was the direct dehit system.

It seemed a natural evolution, rather than an extension, of the Nora Knit principle to hold that the seller of goods for cash transferred by the direct debit mechanism should be in no worse a position that if he had accepted a cheque on delivery.

In this case justice was not required to safeguard the defendant's cash flow pending trial of his claim against Esso.

Paul Magrath, Barrister





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FINANCIAL TIMES

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Barclays Bank makes record £2.36bn profit

Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank vesterday announced record profits of £2.36bn for 1996, infuriating unions who are fighting pay claims for high street clerical banking staff dogged by low terday, the biggest fall in the morale. Unifi, the union for FTSE 100 index, after Barclays Barclays staff, said the workforce was seeking a break from the 21,000 redundancies that have been made since 1991.

"It's not the size of the profits [that worries us] hut what is done with them. In particular, staff have been paid sub-inflation rises for the past three or four years, said Patrick Eraut, national officer of Unifi.

The union was also frustrated by the bank's refusal to make commitments to no compulsory redundancies. "We're six weeks into the new year and we're already aware of 800 jobs

due to go," said Mr Eraut.
The bank has surplus funds of around £500m that Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said yesterday he intended to return to shareholders.

more than £1bn of shares in the past 18 months and yesterday further rewarded sharebolders with a 21 per cent rise in the fi-nal dividend to 20p. However, the bank's shares

fell more than 5 per cent yesannounced that BZW, its investment banking arm, had suf-ferred a sharp fall in profits during the second half of the year. A strong performance in other areas of its husiness, no-tably UK Banking Services, gave Barclays the scope to in-crease its dividend and make the promise to return more mooey

to shareholders. All three areas of UK Banking Services - personal banking. husiness banking and crossborder services - recorded profit increases. Profits in the personal hanking unit jumped to £773m from £659m, while business banking profits rose to £801m from £754m.

Mr Taylor said Barclays Life had improved to produce a 35 per cent increase in sales of life,

ucts. Barclaycard, savings prod-ucts and consumer lending also made solid contributions and balances oo current accounts The bank's personal banking business faced an upheaval in the early 1990s when the hank started to close many hranches.

Bardays now has 2,000 branch-

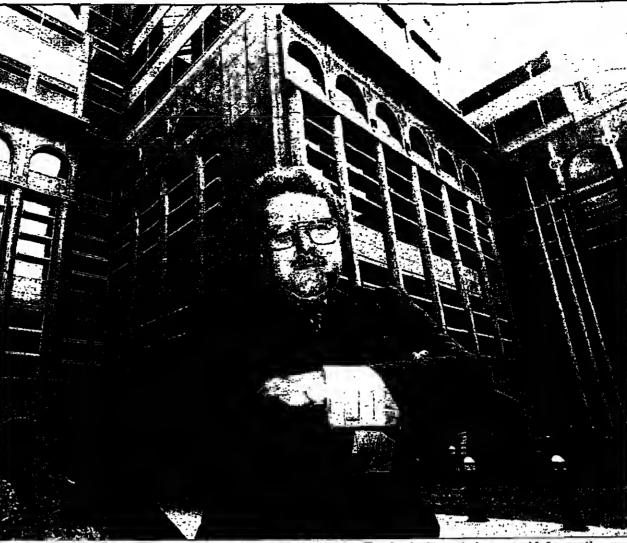
es and it expects to close another 20 or so this year. The bank, like all the others on the high street, is offering more telephone banking services and it is piloting a PC-based home banking service. It also faces competition from new entrants to banking, such as supermarkets, but Barclays made clear yesterday it had no intention of pairing up with su-permarkets to offer banking

services. Instead, it aims to

open its own branches at stores. Barclays attracted more than 200,000 customers for its Additions banking services, a bank account which requires customers to pay a fee of £5 every month, regardless of whether or oot they are overdrawn. Similar schemes are being introduced by other clearing banks and Stuart Cliffe, chief executive of the National Association of Bank Customers, said this was a way of introducing bank charges by the back door.

Mr Cliffe argued that banks' record profits should scotch any ideas of charging for personal banking.
The British Bankers' Associ-

ation said 80 per cent of banking clients did not incur any charges. It said research by banks showed that a significant minority of hanking customers were prepared to pay for enhanced banking services.



Banking on new staff at BZW: Bill Harrison, who moved from Robert Fleming last year to become chief executive

BZW results hit by staff costs

vestment banking arm, dropped by 29 per cent last year in stark contrast with many of its rivals which made record profits, writes Jill Treanor.

Operating profits at BZW slid to £204m in 1996, confirming the concerns of many analysts who had feared that heavy staff turnover at BZW, run by Bill Harrison, the recently installed chief executive, would take its toll. Despite the profits fall, however, BZW set aside an additional £22m to pay bonuses

Banking analysts remain worried about BZW's prospects for when most of the management this year. One said that if the changes took place, BZW pro-

year in 1996 then perhaps it never would. And several analysts yesterday started to downgrade their forecasts for the whole Barclays banking group, amid coocerns that City expectations had been pitched too high.

Overall, total costs at BZW rose by £160m. That was much faster than income which rose by just 7 per cent in the year. The rise in costs was even sharper in the second half. Martin Taylor, chief executive

of Barclays, said costs rose 20 per cent when compared with the first half. In the second half,

predicted that costs would remain high in the first-half of this

ating profits.

BZW's return on equity was just 8 per cent in 1996, and Mr Taylor said that would not be of the £160m increase in

costs, he said £120m could be attributed to payments to staff. BZW spent £45m on "upgrad-ing" - hiring and firing staff during the year.

"This is an entirely deliberate process. What we could have done is do nothing. That would have achieved a higher profit today and a much weaker siness," Mr Taylor said. He said Barclays was committed to developing BZW into.

to start moving to new offices in Canary Wharf in Loodon's Docklands in April. The real question, he said, was wheo the new staff would

year, especially as BZW was due

start to generate reveoue.

BZW has hired several top executives since the death of David Band, its chief executive, early last year. Mr Harrison was hired from Robert Fleming to replace Mr Band while Bob Diamond was brought in from Crédit Suisse on a multi-million pound pay deal to head the mar-kets division.

New York-based magazine, as

being in the top 10 money makers among US finance houses.

He chooses to work from a

branches of Gap and the Body

PSBR on target after surprise surge in receipts

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Kenneth Clarke's claim to sound management of the economy was boosted yesterday by news of an unexpectedly large surplus of government receip over spending last mouth.

Economists said the £5.8bn repayment of deht in January, nearly twice as much as ex-pected, might take total gov-ernment borrowing below its target this financial year. Tax revenues were running ahead of the Budget forecast, while government spending was not growing

as fast as many experts feared. The Chancellor said: "It shows we are certainly going to hit our target. We might do even better, although I won't count my chickens. We'll wait to see what happens at the end of the year."

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The surprise on the government finance front, along with confirmation from the Gover-oor of the Bank of England on Monday that the strong pound meant he was now seeking only a quarter rather than a haif point rise in interest rates, com-bined to knock four pfennigs off sterling's exchange rate yester-day. It closed at DM2.7085. while its index against a range of currencies fell 1.2 to 96.8.

Analysts in the City predicted an improvement in the state of the public finances in the couning months. "The outlook is reasonably good with growth so strong," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley. Growth would bolster tax revenues, although spending was also likely to overshoot its plans.

However, many remain con-cerned about the Government's financial position. John O'Sul-livan at NatWest Markets said: "The recovery started five years ago and the deficit is still falling fairly slowly. Should we not be closer to balance at this stage of

the cycle?" Liberal Democrat spokesman Malcohn Bruce pressed home the same message. The reality is at the moment that the public sector borrowing requirement [PSBR] is exceeded by the amount of interest we pay on the national debt," he said. Mr Roditi, who refuses all press interviews, was named last year by Financial World, a

In an interview on BBC radio, Mr Clarke made clear the Conservatives' hope that the Government's economic record will be a vote-winner.

small, condescript office above "If there are people out there who think New Labour or the Shop in Hampstead High Liberal Democrats could do better than that, good luck to them. But I actually think when the time comes they will think very carefully about plunging oot of where we are now into a risk of that kind," he said.

High tax revenues explained the surprise £5.8bn repayment in January. One element, a surge in VAT receipts, was expected after a lower than normal figure in December. The payment on account system is leading to a concentration on VAT payments into the first mooth of each quarter.

Even so, growth in VAT revenues has been 15 per cent in the financial year to date, in contrast to the unaccouotably low receipts the previous year.

Corporation tax revenues, which are always strongest in October and January, were a little better than the Treasury had expected. They are op nearly 11 per cent year-oo-year and have already overtaken the full-year forecast contained in November's Budget. -

Set against the good news on the tax front, departmental spending is growing at a year-on-year rate of nearly 3 per cent compared with the 2 per cent Treasury forecast.

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Britannic Assurance policyholders will he hundreds of pounds hetter off after sharing a £209m special bonus declared vesterday. But shareholders are to be awarded more than four times as much as the 1.2 million policyholders. The company said yesterday

it had agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that £902m of the assets in Britannic's life funds belong to shareholders. They will oot receive a direct payout of the windfall but instead will get an 82 per cent lift in the dividend. Britannic said the new higher level of dividends would not be a one-off but would be regarded

is over the so-called "orphan assets" in the company's life insurance funds, which have been built up over many years as investment returns have exceeded the amount the company has had to pay policyholders.

Negotiations with the DTI

have been over how the orphan assets should be split between shareholders and policyholders. This decision led to a drop in

shares in Prudential, which has made clear that it is becoming increasingly impatient with the DTI for delays in unlocking its own stock of orphan assets.

Analysts said the 8.5p fall to 564.5p in Pru's shares was because Britannic had been unable to persuade the DTI that the orphan assets in its ordinary, rather than industrial, life inas a platform for future increases.
The agreement with the DTI leased to shareholders. surance husiness should be re-

For Britannic, the ordinary business was only £58m of the £960m of assets it wanted to assign to shareholders. But for the Pru, which has at least £3bn of orphan assets, the ordinary insurance is thought to be a more significant part of the total.

At the end of 1995, Britannic had £5.862bn of assets in its life insurance funds of which £4.7bo now belongs to policyholders. The value of shareholders in-

terests in the business totals £1.55bn, including the orphan assets, the value of policies in force and also of new husiness written during 1995. The total is likely to have risen to £1.7on by the end of last year. The shares rose 66.5p to 870p after the announcement.

The bonuses to policyholders will not be paid in cash but would be added to the value of policies.

A maturing 15-year industrial life insurance policy with a pre-mium of £10 a week would receive an additional £221 boous

A maturing 25-year ordinary hranch endowment policy with a £20 a month premium will receive an additional £762 boous. A 10-year endowment policy taken out seven years ago with a £50 a month premium would receive an additional £273 oo

Britannic also announced a oew efficiency drive, with new sales management and premi um collection systems and oew investment in market analysis and product research. These moves would lead to a £25m saving in operating costs.

Brian Shaw, chief executive

said Britannic's with-profits funds were still among the strongest in the industry.

Britannic declares bonuses Bid by Roditi may signal move to stock market

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

The mystery surrounding Nicholas Roditi, the publicityshy investment manager with an estimated annual income of £50m, deepened yesterday after his privately-owned firm, Rovida International, said it was considering a bid for Plantation & General Investments, a small

quoted company. Rovida said that if an offer were made for Plantation & General, it would be in the region of 58p per share, valuing the company at slightly below £20m. Plantation shares yesterday rose 9p to close at 61.5p. The potential hid, which

Rovida said was conditional on the support of Plantation di-rectors and "certain major shareholders", led to speculation yesterday that Mr Roditi may be looking for a suitable quoted vehicle to make his stock market début.

Plantation, registered in London, is a holding company with a range of interests, including tea estates in Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Malawi, together with coffee, sisal and rubber plantations.

The company also owns sev-eral small agricultural hand tool companies making plantation hoes in Thailand and Brazil. Plantation made profits after tax of almost £4.6m in 1995.

Street, London. Mr Roditi manages a key part of the Quantum Quota fund on behalf of George Soros, the fi-

nancier who shot to fame after making £650m from Britain's ERM crisis in 1992. Last year Mr Roditi delivered a return of 160 per cent for investors. In cash terms the value of the fund shot up from £350m to £900m.

Out of the Cup, now Birmingham are in for a flotation

David Suflivan: Club owner is a soft porn publisher

With the timing of a bad Vinnie Jones tackle, Birmingham City will today unveil plans for a £25m stock market flotation in an effort to raise cash for manager Trevor Francis to buy players and stave off the threat of relegation from the Nationwide First Division.

Details of the flotation come just days after the club's humiliating exit from the FA Cup at the hands of Wrexham of the Second Division. The 1-3 home defeat provoked an outbreak of crowd trouble among Birming-ham's fans, reviving memories of

STOCK MARKETS

-1.21 -0.1 +6.15 +0.1 -279.90 -1.5

Say's change Change (%) 1996/97 Egh 1998/97 Law York(%)

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7022.44 5032.94 1.92 22886.80 17303.65 0.87†

Source: FT Information

is trying to a project more user-friendly, family-oriented image. Nobody ever said Birmingham City was a conventional football club. Owned by the soft porn publisher David Sullivan and followed by a hard core of infamous fans. Birmingham created history in 1993 by ap-pointing Karren Brady, 23, as the first woman to run a professional football club.

True to form, the prospectus shows that Birmingham took the highly unusual step of asking Howard Wilkinson, the Foothall Association's technical director, to value the squad,

6.28

Money Market Rates

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manager has no formal qualifications as an accountant or auditor.

As remarkable is Ms Brady's claim that income would increase eveo if Birmingham dropped down into Divisioo Two: "The last time we were there two seasons ago we played 63 games. You have the Auto Windscreens Trophy and you get into the other cup competitions earlier."

Analysis are not sure that spending money will secure success on the field. They recalled that Barry Fry, the pre-

INTEREST RATES

Bond Yields *

6.63 7.09

House to Company Fails

5.75

even though Birmingham advious manager, sold a record 46 mits the former Leeds United players for £5.6m and spent £7m on 41 oew signings during his two-and-a-half year reign, but Birmingham still failed to win a major honour.

There is also concern that last year's £4.4m wage hill was slightly higher than the club's gate receipts - the largest sin-gle source of the club's £7.34m turnover. Last year the club made a profit hefore transfer fees of £803,000.

Birmingham is raising £7.5m to buy players and make improvements to the St Andrew's ground via a placing of up to 15 million shares at 50p on the junior Al-

but its stake will be out from 84.2. per cent to 58.9 per cent. A pre-vious interest-free loan from Sport Newspapers is being for-malised into an interest-free 3year loan of £6.57m. The offer closes on 26 February - just days before this season's transfer deadline.

Sport Newspapers, jointly owned by Mr Sullivan and the Gold brothers of Ann Summers

lingerie fame, will retain control

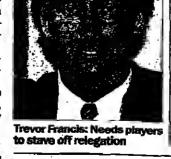
Ms Brady, who is married to a former Birmingham player, reckors lievor Francis should buy a striker and a midfield man. People & Business, page 21

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De Lorean battle may return to UK courts

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent The marathon \$500m (£313m)

legal battle between the Government and accountants Arthur Andersen over the collapse of the De Lorean car plant in Belfast could end up back in a British court. It is almost 10 years after the case began in the US and 15 years after the ill-fated car company went to the wall.

being sued by the UK authorities over its role as auditor of

day applied to have the case returned to the High Court in-London. It follows last week's decision by a judge in the New York federal court to throw out the action, which alleged Arthur Andersen was guilty of conspiracy, fraud and negligence. The judge said the UK could still take the case to a lower state

court, but it could not claim its legal costs, estimated at up to £15m. Arthur Andersen said if Arthur Andersen, which is the case was to continue it wanted it to be returned to the UK. There were originally actions on De Lorean's accounts, yester- both sides of the Atlantic.

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When investment banking becomes a burden

for the Barclays group, a business it would far better be shot of, or will the strat-egy adopted of staying with investment banking, investing in it and encouraging it, eventually be vindicated? We are unlikely to COMMENT There could hardly be know the answer one way or another for a while yet but certainly the commitment shown towards BZW is beginning to look a lot more high risk than it was. Sir Brian Pitman, chair-man of Lloyds TSB, has always taken the view that the culture, pay and underlying business of investment banking is so alien to that of a starker contrast than that between the poor profits, bumper pay packets and brutal a good old-fashioned clearing bank that the two can oever live happily together. Lookmanagement ing at Barclays' results yesterday, you begin

to understand what he means. There could hardly be a starker contrast than that between the poor profits, bumper pay packets and brutal management restruc-turing at BZW, and the buoyant profits, restrained costs and feeling of purpose that characterises the main UK clearing bank. Even Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief executive, admits that if he cannot get it right at BZW within two to three years, then the strategy will have to be reconsidered. As it is, he believes he now has the management team necessary to take BZW forward. But at what cost? There's a way to go yet before BZW emerges from the woods. If that highly paid

new team fails to bring costs under control with dispatch, it possibly won't.

The problems of BZW have spoilt an otherwise glowing performance from Bar- profits comes not from the sort of fancy

Is BZW now little more than a millstone clays and prompted some unfavourable comparisons with Lloyds TSB. How is it. many analysts were saying yesterday, that Lloyds can both grow its business by more than Barclays and also show Barclays the way in terms of cost-cutting. The Lloyds TSB cost base went down last year. At Barclays it went up. Part of the answer lies with BZW.

Strip that oot and the comparison looks rather more flattering. The comparison is also unfair on a number of other levels. Barclays has chosen to write off the cost of mortgage incentives, Lloyds to take them into profits. Lloyds also wrote back some Third World debt while cost cutting and restructuring is largely being paid for out of reserves. Taken together, these factors might have been worth anything up to £500m to Lloyds TSB profits.

Nor can anyone argue too much with the 23 per cent return on equity now being achieved at Barclays. Even adjusting for the credit cycle, Barclays reckons its return is now 19 per cent and rising. If this is sustainable, then the shares ought to be on a significantly higher rating. Indeed the problem for most ordinary folk with these profits is not that they are ton low, but that they seem excessive. Outside the City they will be viewed as the misgotten spoils of the bank-

ing oligopoly.

There's no doubt who has the more realistic take on this. As always it is the general public, for the greatest threat to hanking

acquisitions and ill-judged lending that used to lay them low, but from new competition, attracted by the very high returns now showto lay them low, but from new competition, attracted by the very high returns now showing through. Barclays, then, faces a double challenge. Getting BZW back on course is going to be hard enough. Tougher still will be defending the franchise from the army of newcomers being assembled against it.

Putting PR gloss on a serious loss

Buying shares in businesses whose main assets go up and down in the lift every day is always going to be a risky affair. There is an argument that people businesses like Shandwick should not be quoted companies at all. Yesterday's defection by four of the com-pany's financial PR subsidiary's 13-strong board, principally because they felt frustrat-ed at their lack of equity participation in Shandwick's success, underscored the point. The shares tumbled 10 per cent on the leak.

Shandwick, of course, took the blow in its stride, its fluent patter barely missing a beat as it painted a happy picture of amicable departures, smooth transitions, supportive clients. It's only five out of 100 hardworking staff, the gloss went. We wish them well.
The fact remains, however, that Shandwick

has lost five of its most senior staff and it will be powerless to keep those clients who choose to move with the people who handled their accounts. Contractual obligations are

Whether it is chutzpah or pure stupidity which has led the founders of The Hogarth Partnership to name their new company after the painter of gin-swilling depravity remains to be seen. Given that they plan to launch their new venture on April Fool's day. there's a strong temptatioo to think the latter. They must also be hoping a new PR venture is not the clearest imaginable sign of the top of the market. When soon-to-befloated Citigate staged a similar walk-out at the high tide of the 1980s boom, it faced a long haul through the recession before its founders could even start to think about cashing in their chips.

Budget should be balanced by now

So far Ken Clarke's crossed fingers are doing the trick. Hopes that everything in the economy will be rosy in the run-up to the election have so far been fulfilled. Growth has been steady, inflation low if a bit disap-pointing. On Monday the Governor of the Bank of England admitted the strong pound had made the need for higher interest rates less pressing, although he thought it remained. This concession was followed by yesterday's news of a surprisingly big repayment of government deht last month.

Let us give the Chancellor some credit. Government borrowing could have been in much worse shape than it is. Since Mr Clarke stepped in to the chaos left after Norman Lamont's tenure, be has achieved wonders in terms of slowing growth in government spending and reducing expectations about future public expenditure. If he had not been unlucky with the missing VAT millions last financial year, the public finances would be

in better shape still. But this should not deflect attention from the fact that after five years of economic recovery, the Government should have made the Budget at least balance. After all, Nigel Lawson managed to run a surplus for three years. If tax revenues are not going to catch up with spending this year and next. they never will - or at least not without some

drastic surgery. This message will prove all too easy for politicians – of either party – 10 ignore during the next year or so. As long as the economy turns out to be as strong as predicted, buoyant tax revenues will help put gov-ernment borrowing on an impressive down-

But the fact remains that Mr Clarke should not have squandered the budgetary benefits of the big tax increases pushed through after the 1992 election. If he had not bowed to the pressure to offer a discreet bribe to voters in the 18 months before the last possible election date. Britain's public finances really would be something to boast about.

Granada sells Welcome Break for hefty £476m

well-known businesses in Eu-

rope, including Gucci and

Mondi, the German fashioo

Nigel Cope

Granada made further progress oo its disposal programme yesterday when it agreed to sell the Welcome Break motorway service stations to Investcorp, the Bahrain-hased investment group, for a top-of-the-range price of £476m.

restructuring at BZW.

and the buoyant

profits, restrained

UK clearing bank'

purpose that

costs and feeling of

characterises the main

The deal ends Granada's virtual monopoly of British motorway service station sites that has existed since last year's £3.9bn takeover of the Forte ho-

tels group.
Granada is also selling the Westbury hotels in London and New York to Chelsfield, the property group, for £90m. Chelsfield plans to extend and refurbish the two hotels and incorporate them into the Went-Surrey golf club. It is possible the Wentworth Club will then

be floated on the stock market. The price tag of the Welcome Break deal surprised the City, which had expected a £400m-£450m deal in spite of a raft of bidders thought to include Asda, Tesco, National Express and venture capital group Cin-

Ven. Richard Warner, a member of the Investcorp management committee, denied the group had paid too much: "It may appear a full price but we view the company as a strategic platform to develop other motorway service station

After the sale of Thorn Lighting Group, Investcorp has no UK businesses but said yesterday it was on the bunt for more UK deals. "We have ambitions to acquire companies in the UK, Europe and internationally," Mr Warner said.

Marriott International, the US hotels group, is to pay \$1bn (£625m) for Renaissance Hotels of the Netherlands. Renaissance operates and franchises 150 hotels in 38 countries under names such

obtained.

as New World and Ramada. The deal forced Doubletree Hotels to withdraw from the fray,

The combined group will operate or franchise more than 1,300 hotels around the world including nearly 200 outside the US. JWS Marriott, chairman of Marriott International, said the deal provided a dramatic increase in rooms and market position for Marriott. "With the addition of these brands we immediately reach ers in 40 new markets including Russia, China, Japan and India. It more than doubles our presence outside the US."

Marriott plans to open more hotels under the New World name in the Asia-Pacific region. The Renaissance brand will be expanded

chairman and acting chief executive of the Welcome Break chain. Welcome Break recorded operating profits of £32m on

company. It plans to invest turnover on £335m last year. £50m in the 21 Welcome Break Elliott Bernerd, Chelsfield's sites and seek further sites. A chairman, said his group's £90m purchase of the two Westbury service station on the M40 near Oxford is planned and Investhotels would herald increased corp estimates there is room for investment in the hotels' retaila further 15-20 service stations ing interests. Chelsfield plans to increase the retail revenues of if planning permission can be the Londoo hotel, on the cor-Michael Guthrie, the entrener of Bond Street and Conduit preneur who sold his Pavilioo motorway business to Granada Street, from £200,000 to £2m. Retail revenues at the Westbury on New York's Madison Avenue could increase from \$800,000 to in 1995, has been appointed

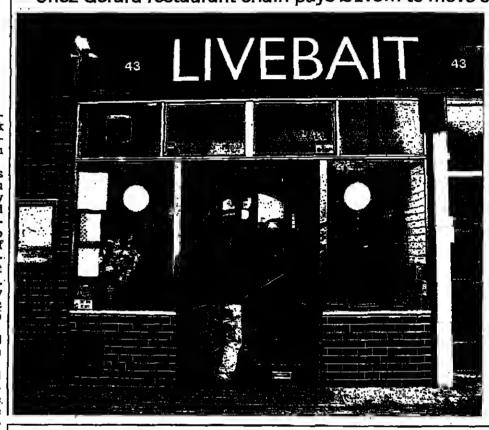
> The two hotels produced pre-tax profits of £5m on turnover of £22.8m last year.

\$4m, Mr Bernard said.

The Welcome Break and Vestbury deals take Granada's total disposals since the Forte deal to £1.2bn. Still to be sold are 11 more Exclusive hotels and the stake in the Savoy

Charles Alleo, Granada's chief executive, said: "Welcome Break and the Westbury hotels have been sold for excellent

Chez Gérard restaurant chain pays £1.6m to move south of the river



Livebait, the London fish restaurant, was acquired yesterday by Groupe Chez Gerard for up to £1.6m. The deal takes the Scotts to Bertorelli's group south of the River Thames for the first time, to The Cut near Waterloo Station, an area the company hopes will receive a big boost from the completion of the Jubilee Line Yube extension. Chez Gerard, which will have 10 London restaurants when its first City watering hole opens in July, also announced flat interim figures for the six months to December, hit by delays and cost over-runs on two refurbishment projects.Pretax profits in the half year slipped from £1.35m to £1.31m. Earnings per share were 5.1p (5.2p) and the interim dividend was increased from 0.9p to 1.0p. Like-for-like sales growth at the seven restaurants open throughout the period Photograph: Andrew Buurman Investment column, page 21

Lira falls amid doubts over Italy and EMU

Yvette Cooper

The Italian lira and the Spanish peseta both fell heavily against the German mark yesterday, as the confidence of traders and investors io Italy's planned early membership of European Monetary Unioo (EMU) began to unravel. Remarks made by the Belgian

central bank governor Alfons Verplactse were interpreted in the markets to mean that Italy should not join EMU in the first wave in 1999. Meanwhile, Italian Prime

Minister Romano Prodi accused Germany of being less committed to EMU that Italy,

Magnus Grimond

Jan Leschly, ehief executive of

SmithKline Beecham, is on course for another pay packet

of around £1.8m this year after

the drugs group unveiled profits

of £1.55bo yesterday. Stripping out exceptional gains of £262m

eign exchange dealers.
As a result the mark shot up

against the lira. This left the lira bouncing against its ERM central rate of 990 lire to the mark. before ending the day at 996.65 lire - a change of 9.4 on the day. The peseta fell in its wake to 84.77 against the mark. Rumours spread among dealers that the Bank of Italy was buying lire at 990, and that the Bank of Spain had intervened heavily to buy pesetas at 84.75 against the mark. Italian and Spanish

bonds also fell. The view that Spain and Italy will not be among the first wave of EMU members has been

SmithKline chief profits by £1.8m

put him in line for the sort of

bonus he picked up in 1995, when he was awarded £928,000

on top of fees, salary and other benefits of £876,000. Mr

Leschly attracted controversy

two years ago when he was paid

£2.4m, including around £800,000 for "relocation" from

for some time. German public opinion is hostile to Italian membership, fearing Italy's his-tory of political and financial instability will weaken the new euro. Meanwhile, European central bankers and politicians have been hinting for some time

that Italy won't make the grade. But until recently the financial markets seemed to be betting on Italy's ability to join EMU in the first wave, as Italian and German bond yields converged. Now traders admit the markets are extremely edgy, and the slightest remark – like Mr Verplaetse's comments yes terday - will trigger a reaction.

alysts and SmithKline's shares

added 13p to 894.5p yesterday. Mr Leschly said all the num-

bers were moving in the right di-rection. The group had filed 154 product approvals in 24 devel-

oping markets, "which suggests we can continue to grow in dou-ble digits", he said. The group

had sold, restructured or closed

12 plants in the past year and

Gulf wins bid battle for Clyde Petroleum

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Norwich Union's decision to accept Gulf Canada's 120p-ashare offer for its 8 per cent stake in Clyde Petroleum scaled the British oil explorer's fate yesterday. It was enough to secure 51.4 per cent of Clyde's shares for the hostile bidder in the latest of a run of extremely narrow bid victories.

The bid split Clyde's five largest shareholders, who be-tween them controlled more than half the company's shares. As well as Norwich Union, Wittingtons, with 5 per cent, ac-cepted the hid as did Capital Group of the US for some of its 10 per cent holding. Only Schroders (20 per cent) and the Prudential (4 per cent) among the big shareholders, stuck by Clyde's management.

JP Bryan, chief executive of Gulf, said yesterday: "We are of course most pleased with the outcome but remain respectful of the efforts by Clyde's management to do what they considered best for their chareholders."

Mr Bryan is expected to ask Roy Franklin, Clyde's well-regarded chief executive, to remain with the company. He said: "We look forward to working with the management and employees of Clyde to grow the business in the UK and around the world." Gulf's narrow victory ends

one of the most hitterly fought of recent hostile bids that saw the two sides locked in acrimonious struggle to persuade shareholders of the merits of their often arcane arguments about Clyde's real value.

Golf initially offered 105p-ashare, putting a price tag of £432m on Clyde, but had to increase the offer to 120p, or £500m, to secure victory.

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last time, the pre-tax figure represented growth of 14 per cent over 1995. Although towards the lower end of expectations, the profit there were another eight to go. figures were well received by an-Investment column, page 21 Company sources said this

the UK to the US.

With dental and optical cover



market report/shares

5.5 points down at 4,332.3.

Data Bank **FTSE 100** 4332.3 -5.5 **FTSE 250** As equities wilted and what could be the first crack ap-4612.7 +6.2 peared in the all-conquering fi-nancial sector two of the City's **FTSE 350** most closely followed strate-2139.3 gists suggested the stock mar-**SEAQ VOLUME** two years. Nicholas Knight and Allison Southey at Nomura upgraded this year's Footsie forecast from 4,400 points to 4,800 and next from 4,800 to 5,200. Un-884.6m shares, 49,129 bargains Gitts Index til the Nomura upgrade Chase seemed to be the most optimistic forecaster with a 4,700 estimate. Mr Knight admitted he was "somewhat reluctant" Ladbroke to lift his predictions but felt the current scenario could point to an even stronger per-Footsie started brightly enough but found the going increasingly tough and when New York reopened on a hestiant note it lost any semilares of setherical stronger performance of setherical stronger performance than the semilar set of setherical stronger performance of setherical stronger performance than the set of setherical stronger performance of setherical stronger performance of setherical stronger performance than the set of setherical stronger performance than the set of setherical stronger performance than the set of setherical stronger performance than the new targets.

Surge expected as strategists boost Footsie forecast

Some observers were unsettled by the reaction to Barclays' disappointing figures. Financials, with Barclays among the front runners, have led this year's market advance ket was set to surge for the next and fears have been expressed

shares could fall back sharply if financials lose their way. Barclays fell 70.5p to 1,129p. Although some banks moved ahead National Westminster was caught in the Barclays slipstream, falling 31p to 803.5p. Standard Chartered slipped 3p to 803.5p as some fretted about its figures.

Britannic, the insurer,

jumped 66.5p to 870p as its or-phan funds produced an ex-pected dividend of 23p, an 32 pected dividend of 23p, an 82 per cent increase. A more pro-gressive dividend policy will be based on the 23p platform. But the Britannic perfor-mance did not bring joy to oth-er insurers. Industry peer

Prudential Corporation,

where there is some confusion

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Hanson ended at 300p and En-ergy at 533.5p. Ladbroke, said Argos, the catal to be thinking about barging into the casino bid battle between London Clubs International and Capital Corporation, lost 4.5p to 232.5p. London Clubs added 3p to

London Clubs added 5p to 381.5p and Capital 10p to 196.5p.
Rolls-Royce firmed 1.5p to 221.5p as Lehman Brothers took a slightly more positive stance. Oils were mixed, with weakening crude prices eroding confidence. But Emerald

over its orphan estate, fell 8.5p to 564.5p.
Grey market trading started in the when-issued form of Hanson and Energy shares.

Energy, ahead of Friday's presentation, touched 8.25p, settling at 7.75p, up 1.5p. Clyde Petroleum, falling to the contested Gulf Canada strike, Argos, the catalogue stores

chain, was the best-performing blue chip. The shares rose 21.5p to 695p, said to be re-flecting the likelihood of unchanged interest rates. Boots, however, dipped 13p to 688p with UBS said to be negative. Stagecoach was again ruffled by its South West Trains fiasco, retreating 27.5p to 692.5p. Railtrack moved ahead a further 4.5p ahead of its invest-

ment presentation. Scotia, the drugs group, was

at one time down 52p as the bearish Greig Middleton circular appeared. The shares closed at 650p, off 29.5p. The stockbroker fears a cash call of up to £60m in the next six months, is 200 min to fair value. Break and hotel sales left the shares down 1p at 928.5p. Re-lief that Asda's Welcome Break bid had been unsucestimate is 229, rising to 600p at the start of 1999. shares 1.25p to 116p. Newcomer Infobank, 2 soft-

Plantation & General jumped 9p to 61.5p as famed fund manager Nick Roditi appeared with a possible offer around 58p. The market thinks Mr Roditi will use the company as a vehicle for his company as a vehicle for his company. as a vehicle for his own interests or pump a business into it.
Williams Roldings, con-

ducting one-to-one investment meetings with fund managers after a presentation on Monday, managed a 6p gain to 305p. Shandwick, the public relations group rocked by defections, fell 3.5p to 56.75p. Centrics had another unre-

warding day, falling a further 1.75p to 63.5p; BG gained 1.5p to 176p.

Taking Stock

Haemocell, the blood products company which has been under intense pressure Whithread was ruffled by an ABN Amro Hoare Govett "sell" note, falling 13p to 791.5p, Granada's Welcome and was forced to mount a and was forced to mount a
£2m rescue rights issue, held
at 4.5p. The chief executive,
Brian Long, has displayed
faith in the group's revival by
buying I million shares, lifting his interest to nearly 4
per cent. At one time Haemocell seemed to be one of the cessful lifted the superstorecell seemed to be one of the more exciting beatth westures. Its blood filter won US approval but problems over distributors retarded its ware house, touched 150p, settling at 144p. Placing price was 125p. Computer group CMG was again in demand. The shares jumped 40p to a progress. The group has 1,165p peak.

The day's profit warning appeared from video group VTR, down 20p at 55.5p.

Fortune Oil slipped 0.25p to 14.75p. A near 1.5 million share trade at 13.5p was recorded in late trading. The company has warned it plans switched to its own selling force, a move which is thought to be paying off.

The pleasure

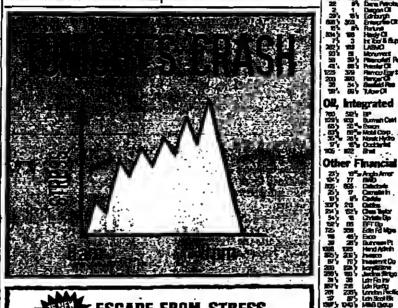
Mily Contiber

er and the

Malaya, the luxury car-group embracing HR Owen, continues to attract Singa-pore multi-millionaire Oug Beng Seng. His interests picked up another 500,000 shares and now account for 25.28 per cent; the price is

Share spotlight

company has warned it plans a rights issue to help finance its joint aircraft refuelling ser-vices venture at 16 airports in southern China. Market feaders: Top 20 volumes FTSE 100 Index hour by hour



حكدًا من الاحل

BENEFIT OF SERVICE

SmithKline survives patent loss

Despite early prognostications of doom, SmithKline Beecham, the drugs giant, has prospered since Tagament is blockbuster anti-ulcer drug, went off patent in 1993. As Jan Leschly, the group's wall-proported chief the prognostical chief the patent of the p group's well-rewarded chief executive, boasted yesterday, all the numbers

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are moving in the right direction.

The huge debts taken on in 1994 to buy first Diversified Pharmaceuticals. the US "pharmacy benefit manager" (PBM), and then Sterling Winthrop, a US consumer products group, are being wound down, while earnings growth remains firmly in double figures. Pretax profits grew 16 per cent (excluding currency factors and exceptionals) to

short-term drag, given the proportion of sales on the Continent and the US, but probably not one to lose sleep over. The 14 per cent profits growth to £442m notched up in the fourth quarter would have been a chunky 23 per cent with-out currency effects, but the group reckons the pound at year-end levels would only have shaved 5 per cent from last year's figures.

It is hard to gauge how successful SmithKline's acquisition record has been, given the opacity of the infor-mation on offer. Consumer healthcare trading profits rose a respectable 11 per cent to £372m, and the record on brand growth looks decent. The increased global reach provided by Sterling means that hrands like Aquafresh and Panadol have done well, showing strong growth of 24 and 10 per cent respectively last year. That said, the fall in the first nine months of the over-thecounter version of Tagamet suggests Smithkline's abilities in extending the life of its drugs after patent expiry have taken a while to perfect, although competitioo has been intense.

The picture is fuzzier at Diversified. The group makes much of the fact that it now "manages" the healthcare re-quirements of 33 million lives, more than twice the 13.8 million at acquisition, and a drug spend of \$5.2bn (£3.2bn). But it refuses to reveal profit figures and in the absence of more concrete evidence, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the same ends could have been achieved more cheaply by other means.

Acquisitions aside, the record remains good. The £580m rationalisation provision of two years ago has delivered gains of £125m and the core drugs business remains highly successful, growing profits 12 per cent to £1.18bn last year. Sales growth should continue in double digits and the group has no big patent expiries until the next century. Assuming Coreg wins US approval for con-

gestive heart failure later this month. new products, nearly a third of total drug sales, should be performing strongly.

Profits of £1.79bn this year would put the shares, up 13p at 894.5p, on a forward p/e of 21. Hold.

Sedgwick 'still in the game'

£1.55bn, while earnings per share jumped by an underlying 14 per cent.

The pound's strength could be a restructuring that are keeping interest in the insurance brokers alive, rather than anything particularly exciting about their results.

Sedgwick yesterday unveiled pre-tax profits 5 per cent higher at £95.5m last year, in a marketplace where rates - as Willis Corroon remarked last week are in decline everywhere. Our strategy is not based on false

hopes for an improvement in the rat-ing environment," said Sax Riley, Sedewick's chief executive, in a suitably downbeat comment. It was Sedgwick which a year ago sug-gested that consolidation was under

way, and it certainly is not over yet. The

Alexander in the US to produce the world's largest broker came shortly after Aon itself had snapped up Bain Hogg in the UK from Inchcape. Jardine and Lloyd Thompsoo agreed to merge just before Christmas. Given the international spread of

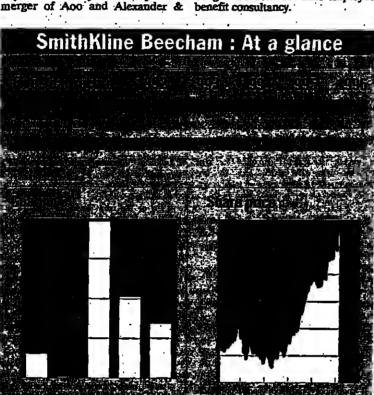
Sedgwick, which is still in the world top three, what happens in the US is just as pertineot as rationalisation in the UK. Mr Riley said elliptically that we have now seen round one but Sedgwick was "still in the game".

He declined to hint whether he meant

as bidder or target, but Sedgwick clearly prefers to be active in this international restructuring, though the share price might be giving a different signal, trad-ing at a 10 per cent premium to Willis.

The results brought a 1p increase in the shares to 128p and were well within expectations. Barnings per share were down from 12.6p to 11.6p while the un-derlying dividend, excluding the foreign income dividend enhancement of 0.75p a share, is unchanged at 6.5p.

Sedgwick has successfully switched. an increasing proportion of its income to fees from broking commissions over the last five years, as it develops the Sedgwick Noble Lowndes employee



There was one little twist in the re-sults, in Sedgwick's purchase of the 50 per cent of River Thames Insurance that it does not already own. Though the cost was £14m, some saw this as a bargain price deal that could bring useful extra cash from the run-off insurance underwriting company. But the amounts are small, and nothing else emerged yesterday to justify putting Sedgwick on the buy list.

Chez Gérard branches out

Groupe Chez Gérard's latest acquisition, of Livebait, a fish restaurant near London's Waterloo station, takes the Soho Soho to Scotts and Bertorelli's group to nine restaurants and moves it out of the company's West End heartland. The opening of a site in Bishopsgate this summer will take the chain into double figures and add a City watering hole to its selection of uppermiddle market restaurants.

The company, which floated in 1994, is undergoing a busy expansion phase which showed in half-year figures to December that disappointed the market with a small fall in pre-tax profits from £1.35m to £1.31m thanks to longer than expected, and more expensive than hoped for, refurbishment programmes at two restaurants. Earnngs per share slipped from 5.2p to 5.1p. although the fall didn't prevent a rise in the well covered dividend from 0.9p

The company warned at the last anoual meeting that profits would be hit for about £200,000 by the over-runs on the refurbishments. In fact the damage was closer to £300,000, and the shares slipped 6p to 256.5p. Arguably it would have been possible to avoid putting 25 per cent of the chain effectively hors de combat for oearly half a year, but at least the sites are now up and running and the discuption is

ont of the way.

The rest of the business performed well in the half with like-for-like sales up more than 7 per cent as the capi-tal's foodie boom continued. With 24 million visitors to London expected to spend £7.5bn this year, a quarter of it oo food, trading should remain strong.

Whether that justifies the premium rating the shares trade on is a moot point. On the basis of full-year prof-its of £3.32m this year and just over £4m oext time, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 20, falling to 16. The shares have moved sideways for a year or so and that's unlikely to change.

A husband who's really worth his weight in gold

Not many women get the chance to buy and sell their husbands. And for a profit,

The placing document for Birmingham City Football Club tells the tale: "During the year ended 31 August 1996, Paul Peschisolido, husband of Karren Brady (managing director), was bought and sold by BCFC. On 28 March 1996, he was pur-chased for £400,000 and sold-

on 22 July 1996 for £550,000." Nice husiness. I wonder, will other wives take up this idea? Might Mary Archer, for instance, consider hiring out author hubby Jeffrey on an hourly rate?

Not all the club's deals have been so successful. The document continues: "BCFC purchased the former residential premises of Karren Brady in November 1995 for £157,000, being the market value at the time. The property was acquired for use by the former team manager and has since been sold at a

loss of £4,000. Better stick to flogging

Phil Kitchener of K&H Options is celebrating 40 years in the City with a bash for 300 guests tonight at the Merchant Taylors' Hall.

Mr Kitchener, a sprightly 55, left school at 15 to start as an office boy in brokers LA Seligman, now Seligman Harris. He has been dealing in futures and options ever since the things were introduced to this country in 1958.

It's a joint celebration, also marking the sixth anniversary of the launch of Mr Kitchener's business, K&H Options. "I set the firm up with my partner Bob Holt, and oow my oldest son Paul works for us," he said. "My other son's in the Securities and Futures Authority."

Despite being a gnat in the global markets, K&H enjoys backing from MeesPierson, itself owned by Dutch behameth APN in the control of the con moth ABN Amro. "This opens a lot of doors and gets us a lot of business," Mr Kitchener said.

So did he have to wear a

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Peschisolido with baby Sophia

Keeping it in the family: Karren Brady and husband Paul Photograph: News Team

uniform when he started as a City messenger 40 years ago? "Uniform? We were lucky to get a wage. But I still enjoy the joh."

Associated British Ports Holdings has gnne outside the company for the first time since it was privatised in 1983 to appoint a new managing director for its ports division. Andrew Smith.

The present incumbent, Alastair Channing, is retiring after around 20 years with the company. ABP runs around 23 per cent of the UK's ports.

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of ABP Holdings, hints that Mr Smith's international experience with P&O Containers and Inchcape in the Middle East and Far East could prove invaluable if ABP decides to expand overseas: This is important, since there could be scope for us to use our port management expertise overseas if the

opportunities arise." Mr Smith, 46, was born in Glasgow and educated at Southampton University. His first job was as a deck officer, or cadet, on Clan Line, a merchant shipping line that plied its trade between the UK and South Africa.

He was managing director of Redland's bricks divisioo from 1992 until last year. Now he's swapped hricks for his first love, ships.

As the City holds its breath to see whether NatWest Markets will report better results next Tuesday than the stinker from BZW yesterday, the former announces yet another highpaying appointment. NWM has poached David Buchen from Citibank in New York to be managing director of its global proprietary trading in foreign exchange.

Mr Buchen will be based in the US and will report to Howard Kurz, who was appointed last August as a managing director and head

of global foreign exchange.
Using typically transatlantic
hizspeak, Mr Kurz welcomed Mr Bucheo's appointment: This is a key hire for NatWest Markets in terms of our ability to leverage further our research and knowledge base," The City will be thinking more about costs bases oext week, 1 think,

John Gummer, Environment Secretary and Minister for London, launched the first strategic planning guidance for the River Thames yesterday at Walbrook Wharf in the City. The wharf transports 59,000 tonnes of waste down the river, and Mr Gummer saw it in operation, including the arrival of a tug and the loading of a barge. Unfortu-nately he didn't fall in.

John Willcock

 Several nominated advisers to companies listed on the junior AIM market faced public censure or being struck off unless standards of service to clients improved, the Stock Exchange warned. Reviewing the performance of 51 nominated advisers active on AIM, the Exchange said it had found "one or two cases" where business practices were "sufficiently unsatisfactory to warrant disciplinary action". "In these cases further investigations and disciplinary procedures are being pursued," the report continued. The Exchange declined to name names.

 Labour's shadow economic secretary, Mike O'Brien, yesterday called on the Government to ensure Parliamentary time was given to the Building Societies Bill, which aims to give societies greater powers and gives limited protection against hostile predators. Mr O'Brien claimed that unless time was given this week, the Bill would not be able to complete its stages before the general election. His call was backed by Nationwide huilding socicty, whose chief executive, Brian Davis, said unless the Bill became law other societies would come under pressure to demutualise.

 The Bank of England wants senior managers of banks it su-pervises to take more formal responsibility for internal controls, a key lesson from the collapse of Barings. In a consultation paper published yesterday the Bank also said it wanted to meet directly with banks' auditors. The Bank already holds meetings with reporting accountants but these are also attended by the bank which has been audited. The Bank expects lively debate on the paper and has called for comments by 18 April.

· Avon Ruhber has sold its tyre business based in Melksham to an Ohio-hased company, Cooper Tire & Rubber, for \$110.4m (£69m), giving Cooper its first overseas tyre factory. Cooper Tire's acquisition includes the land and plant in Melksham, distribution companies in France, Germany and Switzerland, and the right to use the Avon name on tyres, inner tubes and retreading materials. The deal will be completed within five weeks.

 HF Ahmanson & Co, the largest Savings & Loan group in the US, launched a hostile \$6bn (£3.75bn) bid for Great Western Fi-U.S. launched a nostile 3000 (2.5./300) bid for Great Western Financial Corporation yesterday. Ahmanson then launched legal action to stop its target from putting up takeover defenses. Ahmanson filed a lawsuit yesterday morning at Delaware Chancery Court, a state court where most takeover fights are waged. Earlier yesterday, Ahmanson offered stock valued at \$42.53 for Great Western's shares. The deal would create an S&L, similar to a British building society, with \$93bo in assets and 600 branches.

• The US and the UK resumed "open skies" talks yesterday, a State Department spokeswoman said. The talks are scheduled to continue until Thursday. The US has made approval of the proposed alliance between American Airlines and British Airproposed alliance between American Airlines and British Airproposed alliance between the US and UK reaching an "open skies" ways conditional on the US and UK reaching an "open skies" agreement on liberalising air traffic between the two countries.

• Colt Telecom, the UK-based business telephony group which specialises in business customers, yesterday reported a 281 per cent surge in its turnover to £35m for last year as its octwork became established. Colt receotly floated part of its shares on the LIK and US stock markets, raising £180m. Direct customer connections to buildings rose by 96 per cent to 580. Colt has net-meetions to buildings rose by 96 per cent to 580. Colt has net-merical condon and has been moving into service provision in Germany and France in preparation for the liberalisation of the European telecommunications market in 1998. Total losses for the year increased from £2.7m to £11.2m.

	Compa	ny Resu	lts	-
	Torpover £	Pro-tex £	EPS	Dividend
		2.36tm (2.05bn)	104.2p (83.6p)	31.5p (28p)
terntages (F)	<u>- (+)</u>	1.31m (1.35m)	5.1p (5.2p)	1p (0.9p)
Private Chet Gerard (1)	8.8m (8 4m) 21.2m (21.0m)	1.31m (1.0m)	49 (3.19)	1.50(-)
olon 180 gast (1)	21.2m (21.6m)	5.14m (5.96m)	18.5p (17.9p)	9.7p (9.3p)
date: 4 (f)		4.50m (3.61m)	-13.5p (20.2p)	nii (+)
wilde Therapudezi?)	12.1m (11.9m)	0.71m (-0.54m)	0.2(p (-0.3p)	nii (-)
estper (f)	40.2m (20.8m)	17.7m (10.0m)	6.8p (61p)	2.5p (2.1p)
2 Marieron Prope (6)		95.5m (81.2m)	11.8p (12.8p)	3.5p (-)
adjuick (F)	- (-) 53.7m (44.8m)	4.71m (4,04m)	12.3p (11.9p)	4p (-)
Landine Breek (F)	24.48 (4-14-4)			



Shandwick shares suffer as directors defect to set up rival

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Shares in Shandwick International, the public relations group, fell as much as 12 per cent vesterday after five of its most senior staff announced their intention to set up a rival agency. The defectors include four of the 13 strong board of UK financial PR subsidiary, Shandwick Consultants, including its chief executive Chris Matthews.

There was a recovery later in the day after it emerged that the split was not the bust-up that many feared after the story leaked in the morning. Only Mr Matthews has left with immediate effect, with his colleagues staying until at least the end of the results season and one re-maining with Shandwick until

the completion of the planned flotation of the Halifax, oo which it is advising. The shares closed 3.5p lower at 56.75p.

The new agency, to be named the Hogarth Partnership after the painter whose Chiswick house is overlooked by Mr Matthews' flar, will be based oear Tower Bridge. The launch is planned for 1 April - coincidentally the same day that Shandwick, founded by Peter Gummer, brother of environment minister John, opened for business. Its five directors will share about 80 per cent of the company's equity in proportions determined by their seniority at

and liquid resources had fallen from £27m to £20.6m during the

12 months, but had since risen

to £27.4m after recent alliances

with Medeva and SmithKline

Beecham. The cash "burn" was

on target at £6.4m last year.

Research and development ex-

penditure came in at £5m, while

capital expenditure was £2m.

The group has leased and equipped a further 3,500 square

feet of laboratory space in the

Cambridge Science Park and has consolidated all operations

on one site. Mr Brown said they

had "no immediate plans" to

The group's main near-term

Although the five have con-tractual obligations not to work for Shandwick clients or employ its staff for 12 months, it is expected that several of their

arth. One of the five described their contracts yesterday as "a grey area" and it is widely seen as a difficult area for people

businesses to police. At Shandwick, the departures have prompted a restruc-turing of the business into three units. Shandwick Financial, to be headed by former journalist John Reynolds, Shandwick Public Affairs and Shandwick Corporate. The three businesses will he overseen by Colin Trusler, managing director of Shand-wick's UK operations.

It emerged yesterday that it had been an open secret with-in Shandwick for many months that Mr Matthews was looking to leave the group. He had been instrumental in Shandwick's recovery from heavy losses in the early 1990s when its shares

clients will move across to Hog- fell as low as 3.75p hut he was not engaged in clieot work and felt his job at the company had

been completed.

Last mooth Shandwick announced a 20 per cent rise in underlying profits to £9.2m, saying it had benefited from increasing demand from global clients such as Digital and Mastercard for a world-wide ocestop service. Shandwick believes it is the world's largest independent public relations firm, with 90 offices in 20 markets.

The defection by the senior executives, who include John Olsen, James Longfield, Nicholas Denton and Rachel Hirst, is thought to be the largest breakaway since the late 1980s when several directors broke away from Streets Financial to set up Citigate Communications.

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Deutsche shrugs off Morgan losses

imre Karacs Bonn

Deutsche Bank shook off losses at its City investment house by posting record gains for 1996, but debt provisions ate into profit and froze dividends at last year's ievel.

Operating profit, at DM5.8bn (£2.1bn), was up by 37 per cent, reflecting good perfor-mance from the bank's global nvestment division. Net profit, however, increased only by 4.8 per cent to DM2.2bn.

in risk provisions. Although Germany's largest bank did not provide a breakdown of liabilities, the largest item is believed to be Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Last September Deutsche was forced to pump £180m into three unit rusts operated by its British subsidiary, and analysts estimate that another £200m will have to be

dispatched from Frankfurt to the City to compensate investors. Deutsche also lost DM200m in the bail-out of the engineering group Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz, and suffered when two other big industrial concerns cancelled dividends.

But despite the débâcle at

Morgan Grenfell, attributed in

Frankfurt to weak British man-

agement, the bank's decision to

increase its exposure in the global financial markets appears to have been vindicated. Deutsche was at pains to stress yesterday that it was primarily its investment banking division that con-tributed to the 23 per cent rise in total assets to DM886bn.

Loan volume also rose by 8.2 per cent to DM410bn, while customer deposits grew by 25 per cent to DM375bn. Deutsche's share price hit a three-year peak after yesterday's announcement and analysts predicted a steady climb in the expectation that the after a big but unspecified bike problems in London have been ought under control. in comparison with other

German banks, however, Deutsche's performance has been unspectacular. Kommerzbank earlier posted a 22 per cent rise in net profits, while the country's second largest bank, Dresdner, is expected to report tomorrow a 30 per cent leap in

Bayerische Vereinsbank, in which Deutsche has a 5.2 per cent stake, announced an increase in dividends yesterday after an 15 per cent jump in

Dentsche bosses, but it also

highlights the urgent need to

catch up with the rest of the

operating profits.

The windfall of Vereinsbank's what turns him on." success will doubtless please The news came as Peptide an-

Peptide target US 2p to 335p yesterday. The group said its oet cash

Reshuffle to let

Magnus Grimond

Peptide Therapeotics, the biotechnology group, is reshuffling its top management team just 15 months after coming to the market. John Brown, a former stockbroker, is moving up from finance director to become chief executive, replacing Alan Goodman, who becomes deputy chairman with a remit to develop the group's North American business. Gordon Cameron, who arrived from merchant bankers NM Rothschild last year, is to become finance director and Nick Higgins moves over from licensing director to commercial director.

Mr Brown described the raise more money. changes as a realignment of roles. "The largest concentration of our customers are in the US ... and we have found that telephone conferences have not been a substitute for having omeone on the ground."

Mr Goodman would be targeting "any drug company with a market capitalisation of over \$1bn" to sell the group's technology to, Mr Brown said. "He s good at doing deals - that is

prospect is an allergy vaccine with general applicability, including food allergies, bee stings, juvenile asthma and hay fever. This product, at the centre of the deal with SmithKline, could be attacking a £5bn market by the turn of the century. But analysts are most excited

about Peptide's technology base. The group's RAPID combina-torial chemistry product provides a new way of developing protease inhibitors, used in the battle against Aids, but also a nounced losses for the year to factor in many other diseases. Glasso Wellcome is thought to be December had grown from £3.61m to £4.59m. But the figures were in line with market exinterested in the technology.

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Hot new chapter in the adventures of Rosie



AT LARGE

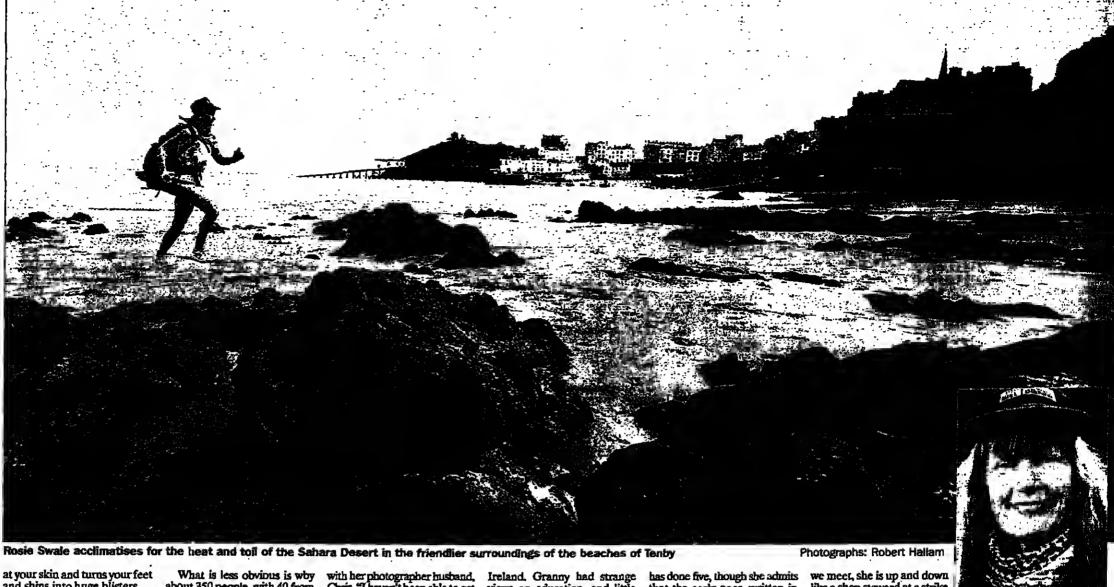
heo your grandmother pushes you out of the house at 12 years old with a packet of biscuits and a popy, telling you to come back a couple of days later when you've got something interest. you've got something interest-ing to write about, it is proba-ble you will grow up having a slightly unusual view of life.

Character-forming episodes like this have formed a large part of Rosie Swale's life. She has sailed with a young family to Australia and back in a 30ft catamaran, rounding Cape
Horn on the way; crossed the
Atlantic single-handed in a 17ft
plywood cutter that was found in a cowshed; travelled the length of Chile (3,500 miles) with two horses and walked alone across Albania (which by all accounts is like 13th centu-

ry feudal England).
Is it any wooder that along the way there has been some less than savoury publicity (sharing a home with a sexchange merchant seaman, for example)? And is it any wonder that at 50, she is eschewing middle-aged pursuits like jammaking, taking fuchsia cuttings and collecting glass animals, and instead planning to run in the world's toughest race?

The Marathon des Sables lasts six days and covers 240 kilometres of the Sahara Desert in temperatures averaging 120F. Chris Lawrence, who organises the British end of the race, says: "We took the temperature. in a sand dune last year and it

It's not just the beat. The tersand, though it's mostly lots of the latter, with plenty of dunes 200ft high. Running oo desert sand is described as "like run-ning through spiteful treacle".



and shins into huge blisters.

The shortest stretch is 18km. But oo the fourth day, runners have to cover oearly 80km, and finish in the dark. They must carry all their personal beloogings, including food, cooking utensils and teots in a rucksack with a 15kg weight limit. Not too much room for three-course meals there. The organisers geoerously supply water - but there's a limit to how much you are allowed. Throw in sundry hazards such as snakes and scorpions, and you start to see wby the race, which starts oo 5 April, is billed as being tougher

about 350 people, with 40 from the UK, are willing to pay £1,900 for such suffering and the chance to win a mere Fr30,000 (about £3,250). Lawrence, who runs a travel agency called The Best of Morocco, says: "You have to be potentially certifiable to do this. Winning is inciden-tal. It's for someone who wants to do something a little crazy." Like the woman who entered in a floral dress and high-heeled shoes. She lasted a day."

Swale, however, is well aware of the hazards. She has been running 70 miles a week along the beach and cliff paths around Ten-by, where she lives in a small flat

with her photographer husband. Chris. "I haven't been able to get any training in high temperatures but I'm used to running with the rucksack and I feel ready for the race. I want to get round - and not as a hobbler."

There seems little chance of that. It's easy to see why Swale says: "I have never liked just to arrive somewhere." The influences of her extraordinary childhood still show in her approach to life. Born in Switzerland, she was adopted because her mother couldn't look after her. The wife of a village postman cared for her until her Anglo-Irish grandmother arrived out of the blue and took her back to rural

Ireland, Granny had strange views on education, and little Rosie didn't go to school until she was 13. "I really only learnt maths when I had to learn astronavigation for the Atlantic crossing," she says.

But her grandmother had more enlightened views about English, even if her teaching approach was somewhat idiosyn-cratic. It even influenced Rosie at 10, when she sent a love story to a women's magazine and had it rejected because she didn't have enough experience.

She trained as a local newspaper reporter, and still writes occasional articles, though most of her writing now is books. She

we meet, she is up and down like a shop steward at a strike that the early ooes, written in the days when she was the darmeeting. ling of the tabloids, are oot very good. There is another in the pipeline, though the planned one on Libya came to naught when she and her husband

were deported twice. "I wanted to do a traveller's view of the country hut we kept being shown round tractor factories." Walking was once her pre-ferred mode of exploring, now it is running, which suits ber restless spirit. She claims that

Others in the room listen in fascination. It's oot just that they are sharing a room with a striking woman decked out for a trans-Sahara run with a rucksack full of poratoes, who is telling stories about having a mountain lion in ber teot in Chile. She also has a voice that would cut through a Force 8 in mid-Atlantic. She is very pop-ular on the lecture circuit, probably because they save on hiring

njured Yo her family (horribly normal) or the charity she is running for -SPANA, a velerinary charity

> MARO EDMONDS ONLE Mp. Globerrofter NS: Mulinter

sential part of North African and Middle Eastern families' lives. hara race (still open for entries if you're oot doing anything io child on Christmas Eve: "When I sailed round the world, I she is bappy, settled at last in her bome life and needing nothing, but she can't sit still. In the quiet seafront hotel where a puppy, whether talking about thought that was it. Now I remained in the propose.



LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 FEBRUARY

NAME	TEAM	POIN
MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	717
HR PETER ERANWERTEN	A PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE	
MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	692
MIT GARY HAPITOWS	The state of the s	
MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	691
MR WELIAM BARR	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN	168R
MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	647
MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	一种的一种的一种产品的	1 685
MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	683
MR SIMON DRAPER	THATESE TO	
MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	678
MR ROBERT GREENHELD	THE OWNER OF THE OWNER.	. M
MR NICK KNIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	677
MR JOHN COX		
MRJ GODWIN	NORYOOD	677
MR BALL COOPER		
DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	I MPERIAL BATES	669
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MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	669
DE TOM BOYLE	LASTOASTORIST	407
MR MICHAEL GREGGSON	UTILE UNS'	667
MR DARREN NICHOLAS	TO THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY.	
MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	666
T-1-4		
MR R RENNICK	WILD ROVERS	664
MR SEAN BROSHAN		THE PERSON NAMED IN
MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	447
MR KETH HORRY		667
MR PAUL RICHARDSON		7 - 861
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.	CINCINATI STORM	641 FRE 15 700
	THE LODGES	- 100
MR R PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	660
	SILK CITY	668
MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	660
HE E HELLERHINGLOPE	RETRIC	140
MR J JOLLY	JIMBO'S	659
PERANDY SWAMMEY	DOO'S BROCK	658
MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	658
MR ANTHONY CROW	PRIJON GIY	658
MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOIM	652
MR PAUL HEMPHAGEAR	w	- 657
MR M CROSLAND	OSNEY CLYONS	4 574
MR PAUL CURRAN		657
MR D R KENNEDY		57
MR C MINERALLI	HAMMERS UNITED	657
	CENN SHEETSEC	656
MR C M DOWN	DEALS RESERVES	656
ME BARRY LEE	LEE MONOR	636
MR PETER SHERLOCK	LINCOLN ST CILES	124
MR DUNCAN PULLER	To La Monte	553 f
MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	655

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY PHILIPS Let's make things better

Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 27 (Wk 27) column lists Independent for all games played from the preall points scored in Premiership matches played bevious Mooday to Sunday inclusive. They will also tween Mooday 10 February - Sunday 16 February inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 16 February.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Foothall managers and their teams for matches

Independent Faotasy Football game, ruary. However the scores remain nothanged due to supported by Philips Energy Saver the lack of Premiership games between Monday 3 and Sunday 9 February.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal = 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet # 3 points for a successful assist # I point when a player is selected and plays I point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw \ Lose I point for p yellow card \ Lose 3 points for a red card

oday we publish the latest results in our played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 9 Feb- appear the following Sunday, in the Independent oo Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again oo Sunday. Terms and cooditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the seasoo will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-fioal of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES A-After transfer period

OYERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 16 FEBRUARY, WEEK 27 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 18 FEBRUARY - 16 FEBRUARY

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Berther ta.

The waters were

Aiming to fit a square pig into a round hole

When trainers discuss their prospects for the Cheltenham are concerned. Her pedigree, however, is impeccable. Her fapossible to dispel images of fly-ing pigs. Jessica Harrington, however, offers a refreshing alternative: square ones.

Harrington prepares Space Trucker, one of Ireland's principal hopes for the Champion Hurdle on 11 March, who acquired his odd oame from a film, as yet unreleased, with which his owner was involved. "Dennis Hopper's m it," the trainer says, "it's science fiction, I think, something to do with moving square pigs around in

As racing trivia goes, this could be the finest nugget in be unearthed all year. All the more so if the equine Space Trucker can do the business back on terna firma next month, and indeed, as far as he is concerned, it is very much a case of the firma

Good ground or faster is essential if Harrington's runner is to become the first Irish cham-pion hurdler since Dawn Run.

ter breating where it is chestown in November. Yet in an example of shifting fortunes which is remarkable even by rac-Recent rain at Cheltenham not to mention the track's apparent eagerness to turn no the taps - probably explains his recent ing in the ante-post market, from as low as 5-1 out to

It may also be a case of unfamiliarity breeding contempt,

ther and brother both prepared horses, while Harrington berself was a three-day event rider of European championship class

It is barely 10 years since she took over the training permit at her husband's stud-cum-stable near the Curragh, and less than seven since the upgrade to a full licence, but the victories to date include the Galway Hurdle with Oh So Grumpy, who later won good chases at Ascot and Kempton, and one of the year's most competitive events, the Ladbroke Hurdle, with the mare Dance Beat.

When the present campaign began, Dance Beat's graduation to novice chasing seemed to of-fer the best chance for further valuable success. Those hopes came to a miserable conclusion when, after two easy wins, Dance Beat was put down after breaking a leg at Puning's fickle standards, Space Trucker belted around the Champion Hurdle course and distance at Cheltenham barely half an hour later to record the facile win in a handicap hurdle which marked him down as a se-

rious championship contender. "He seemed to fly up the since Jessica Harringtoo is rint hill," Harrington says, "and af-the most familiar of Ireland's ter that people started talking Greg Wood talks to Jessica Harrington, trainer of Champion hope Space Trucker

about it, though even then, I was saying "don't be so ridiculous". But if everything goes right and the ground is good, I'd be hopeful. He's a horse who travels very well through his races, so the pace in the Champion will really suit him. We'll want to get three or four leading him to the last, and after that he certain-

ly seems to have plenty of foot."

If Space Trucker's trainer is persuasive: then so too are the form lines. Punters who waded in to back Make A Stand for the Champion after he galloped away from his field in the Tote Gold Trophy may not wish to be



Harrington; grounds for hope

novice was a dozen lengths adrift of Space Trucker back in November, having set a pace which he could out sustain but which set up the race perfectly for the winner.

Things went a little less smoothly in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle, when Space Trucker cantered into the lead before the last flight and probably as a result, hit it hard. The determination with which he then fought back to win, how-ever, was admirable.

"He woo't win the Champioo by five lengths," Harrington says, but he might win by a short-head. He's an absolute devil, if he hits the front he tends to stop. But he's improving all the time. He woo his maiden at Downpatrick [though Harrington is too polite to admit it, the British equivalent would probably be Fakenhaml, and there you run round for £1,200, but I wanted him to win a race because he'd lost a hit of confidence after a fall.

"He started the season on a handicap mark of 104 and oow he's up to 143, that's in less than a year, and basically this is a horse whn's by Kambalda so I always thought be'd be more of

The delicate task of unleashing Space Trucker up the Cheltenham hill at just the right moment could fall to John Shortt, who was in the saddle at

Newcastie. "He understands dence in him," Harrington says. Unfortunately Shortt, whn would cormally struggle to get aboard a 100-1 chance in the Champion, is currently learning the finer points of Sod's Law, since he also has first refusal on Kevin Prendergast's novice, I'm Supposin. He is at smaller odds than Space Trucker in the Festival betting, and Harrington may yet face a last-minute jock-

The going, though, is still her principal worry. The gelding's campaign was carefully structured around a mid-winter break when, in a normal year, the ground would have been unsuitably soft. It would be ironic, then, if the ground came up heavy next month, particularly if the clerk of the course had as much to do with the situation as the elements. Plans for a pre-Festival onting at Leopard-stown no 2 March will also be shelved if the mud is likely to be flying.

Given the right conditions.

though, it is not difficult to see Space Trucker ending Ireland's long lean spell in the timber championship. "When they gave him the name," Harrington recalls, "I said that probahly either he'd be a disaster, or the film would be." If it must be one or the other, then Dennis Hopper, at least, should be able to afford it.



Space Trucker crashes through Newcastle's final hurdle, but he still emerged victorious Photograph: Phil Smith

Hughes sure of Wigan's **future**

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Wigao's oew coach, Eric Hughes, is resigned to losing Va'aiga Tuigamala, whose signing Newcastle are expected to announce today. Hughes' reign is therefore beginning with the same sort of depletion of his squad that depressed his predecessor, Graeme West.

"He came from rugby union and that is where his heart is," Hughes said of Tuigamala's imminent departure. "But I still feel I can put out a side that is the envy of every nther coach." Bobbie Goulding, the St He-lens captain and scrum-half, is

to have his appeal against an eight-match suspension heard tomorrow. Goulding was sent off for a high tackle on Wigan's Neil Cowie in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie between the two sides, but St Helens have described the ban as nutweighing the severity of the offence.

Tickets for this year's final on 3 May will be at a premium, if early sales are any indication. All top-priced seats have already been sold, with interest fuelled, the League believes, by the quality of last year's final between St Helens and Bradford Bulls.

The finalists in the Silk Cut Plate, for First and Secood Division clubs knocked out of the Cup, will receive only 2,000 tickets each, because of the guaranteed allocation to the finalists in the day's main event.
Ady Spencer, the farmer

Cambridge University stand-off, could be the London Broncos' surprise chnice at hooker for their fifth-round tie against Bradford on Saturday.

Bradford have denied that Danny Peacock, their centre, could be prevented from playmg in the tie by a contract with the Australian Rugby League. "There is only one organisation with which Danny Peacock has a contract and he will play for us on Saturday," Peter Deakin. the Bulls' spokesman, said.

lestyn Harris, the Great Britain stand-off, will play his first game at any level for Warrington since last summer when he lines up for the reserve side in the Alliance Cup tie against Leeds tomorrow night. Harris is oo the transfer list at a world record £1.35m, but has been recalled to training with the first team squad. If he comes through successfully, he could play in the Challenge Cup tie at home to

Sheffield Eagles on Sunday. Oldham, whn have an-nounced a tie-in with the Manchester Storm ice hockey club. bope David Bradbury, their Lions' tour loose-forward, will agree a new contract before Sunday's tie at Wakefield Trinity.

PGA aims for new recruits in inner cities

The impact Tiger Woods has had on gulf in only six months as a professional could lead in an opening up of the game in this country. Sandy Jones, the executive director of the Profes Golfers' Association, has just returned from a trip to America where he was struck by the changes Woods is already bring-

ing about at grass roots level. There is a whole new audieoce for golf," Jnnes said. "He is putting clobs in the hands of youngsters who have never seen

"I think we are definitely going to get a spin-off from it. All the majnr inner cities be-come possibilities for us and we are thinking of trying a pilot pro-gramme in Birmingham with

minority groups." Market research carried out for the PGA identified the snotbishness of some clubs as one of the reasons why there has been a sharp decline in the number

of players taking up the game. The other reasons are how expensive it is, how time coosuming and how technically difficult. "The industry is not buoyant at the moment and we are trying to change that and make the business grow again."

A National Golf Week is being held in April to promote the sport and the PGA has a host of other plans. They are helped by a 50 per cent cut of the £3-4m profit generated by the Ryder Cup, with September's match in Valderrama already a sell out.

"The trick from the US Mas-

Injured Young Hustler is out of the Grand National

Eighty six horses stood their Grand National Trial at Punground at vesterday's forfeit stage for the Grand National at Aintree on 5 April. The major defector was Ynung Hustler, who has been ruled out for the season by his trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies,

The 10-year-old damaged a near-fore suspensory ligament when working at the weekend. Twiston-Davies said yesterday: There's not much wrong with him but he won't ruo again this

Master Oats, whose future is in the balance after he was day afternoon for the same.

chestown on Sunday, is still in the big race.

His trainer Kim Bailey is delaying a decision over the 1995 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner until the 11-year-old has had a chance to get over his exertions.

whom were already confirmed

2.10 Kontavrus Way

240 Wise N' Shine

3.10 Red Bean

39 37

There were no other shocks among the 16 absentees, six of

non-runners or not qualified. Yesterday's meeting at Carlisle was abandoned because of waterlogging. Today's card at Hexham was called off yester-

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places on Hurdles course).

Right-hand, unablating course with a run-in, of one fuziong.

Course is six miles west of town off A20. Westernburger start

FOCUS

search is on for a proven ne at long odds. One candidate is NARTHEN LAD, as low as

tival, a race only just short of the Gold Cup distance. Natifical Lad's prospects for the big one took a knock when

he performed poorly on his first two starts this season. His odds tiritied badly, but racney has started to arrive after his latest run, at Chepstow on Saturday. He jumped superbly in a race of less than two and half miles, for short of the optimum, and was outspeeded only in the dosing stages by the useful Air rides him in the Gold Cup." Shot, who was receiving 127b.

dle on Saturday, was full of enthusiasm over Nahthen Lad yesterday. This is an excellent jumper, very clever at his fences, which you need around Cheltenham," Farraot said. "We were very pleased, espe-cially over that distance. He's

Rodney Farrant, in the sad-

suited by soft ground, but has won over a trip on good ground. It looks like either myself or Norman Williamson Chris Corrigan

Primar's Lad steps out of the shadows old won last year's fast run. The Pitman horse is hitting Son Alliance Chase at the Res-

3.40 ANNABEL'S BARY (nep)

4.40 August Twelfth (nb)

4.10 Trifast Lad

🌉 Comse is six miles west of town off A2O. Westerburger station (service from London, Charing Crois) adjoins course. ADMISSION: 59 (under-16s free). CAR FARE: Proc.

LRADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: It Bows - 11 where from 68 rations at a re-AMBLIATO AMBLIANDA WALE MAINTENER R MOWE - II WINNER FOR 65 RUPERS & BE-tio of 16.2% giving a return to a 51 level state of +51D.31; O Getseell - ID winners, 64 runners, 16.6%, +51.83; M Fipe - 9 winners, 38 runners, 28.7%, +613.87; C Balding -3 winners, 14 runners, 27.4%, +51.00; E Curtis - 8 winners, 21 runners, 14.3%, +511.26; P Winkworth - 2 winners, 6 runners, 33.3%, +58.50; C Hisbard - 2 winners, 8 runners, 22.2%, +57.76.

nem, 22.2%, +37.70. LEADING JOCKETS: F Hide – 8 wirwers, 43 rides, 18.6%, 56.97; A Magaire – 8 win-nem, 48 rides, 16.7%, -£10.90; E Dunwoody – 8 wirmen, 57 rides, 18.6%, -£22.60; M A Fitzgorald – 7 winners, 39 rides, 17.9%, -£12.03; D Bridgwater – 6 winners, 26 rides, 23.1%, -£9.67; N Williamson – 6 wirmers, 40 rides, 15%, -£11.08.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Dawny Gule (2.10), Warning Roof (2.10), Rod Bots (vi-

Frances and seeks a transfer white light seeing. Another its full last simply was Coome. Hill the south france, was considerable as for yet proposed, a safe conveyance, while they other two in the best seeks. While they are the proposed as the proposed a

2m 8f 110yds Penalty Value £2,233

20-1 in school lists but still avail-able last night at 33-1 with Stan-

2.40 LYMPNE NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added

SCRIPT, successful in a Sigo maiden hundle lest season, anded a lengthy losing sequence when defecting Sightly Special a couple of lengths on softish going at Lingtheld at the end of last month. He looks capable of supplementing the gains off a 6th higher tating. Script finished miles in front of Devisiony and Alderick Colonings when a creditable fourth to Do Be Ware at Plumpton before that and he had Devisiony tan lengths withit in fourth last time from their above he properties of the properties. - form which ghould be confirmed on 6th worse terms. Even so, Derisbay took minor hon ours behalf kentevous Wey at Plampton rane days ago with Proclous Wonder and Dept-ford Balle behind and could be in at the finish with Adiem Magaire booked for the ride. Annabat's Raby won at Newton Abbot last season and will be fitter as a result of her run against Panade Racer at Towcester three weeks ago on her first appearance since the end of Sentember.

4.10 FLISHER FOODS MAIDEN HUNTERS' CHASE (CLASS H) £1,350 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £1,067

Æ	TENG: 13-	B Triffant Lad, 7-2 Greybury Lane, 9-2 Gypsy King, 11-2 Deckbourg Light, 14-1 Juctor
		- 10 decired -
10		JOCHOR DON (Mrs Densk Statuss) & Baking 5 11 12 Mr E Bahington (7)
9	Q00000-F	ELL GEE (7) (Paul Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 7 12 3
8		TREAST LAD (5) (Alie Roberts) M Roberts 12 12 8
7	4	SANDS OF COLD (705) (Brest Bacharry C Mirroro B 12 8 Mr L Lay (7)
B	640-	KENG FRIGH (1882) (Mrs Align Wagnery) Align Whyshon 20 12 8
5		GYPSY NEWS (362) Dies Nigel Wagneri & Cooper 9 12 6Mr A Coo (7)
4		CREADURY LAME (DY D 6 A SM) MIS D SM 9 12 8 Mr P Bull (7)
3		DASS-PROADED LIGHT (E & A Cooke Bourne Fatting) Mrs C Cooke 7 12 8Hr S Andrews (3)
2	44	CENTRE STAGE (7) (L.J. Bournari) Mrs S Warr 11 12 8
:		The state of the s

FORM GUIDE
TREFAST LAD, wither of five point-to-points over the years, finished runner-up on his single start of 1994-95 and in both races last term while he was similarly placed behind Loyel N on his hunter chase debut at Plumpton nine days ago. Tribat Led had the odds-on Mount less than a length back in third at the Sussex track and, sure to strip fater run, should go one better today. Greybure Lane, who won his last two points in 1.9 has a 1033-day observe to overcome but looks the right choice for the forecast. Board Light, a winner between the Sags at Southwell last Merch but without an outh May, appeals most of the others.

Selection: TREAL

4.40 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £2,384 2m Of 110yds Penalty Value £2,364

1 OUSS SONAMS SONAM (12) IS A Hubbard G Hubbard 9 11 10.

5-415 Paten SOT II. (75) gol (20) (A-Men Patriesho) G McCourt 8 11 9 ...

5722-403 MILLIFORN (2) (Courty Bren't McCovern 7 10 13 ...

4 DO-SALZ MALLIFORN (2) (Duran's Bren't McCovern 7 10 13 ...

5 19U-03 GETTE LARD (17) (Smon 7 Least) D Bustell 8 10 8 ...

5 19U-03 GETTE LARD (17) (G D C O'Bren') D O'Bren 9 10 8 ...

7 U-0450 ROSER'S PAL (36) (Tatresh Rosen (5 0h) P Eories 10 10 D ...

8 06-6002 LAMADHAL (FR) (9) (P D Purb) K Befrop 8 10 D ...

Minimum weight 20st. The Insoling weights Regist Rel 98 90, Lajadhal 9st 3b.

BETTERE T-4 August Twelfon, 7-2 Alost Soit II, 4-1 Monits Schem, 5-1 Millimose 8-1 Lajadshal, 12-1 Celtic Laird, 20-1 Regist's Pal

8-1 Lajadatat, 12-1 Celdic Laint, 20-1 Roger's Pal

FORM 05/00-E

ISONIKS SOHAM had only two outings lest season, finating a four-length third to figers at Hurtingdon (2m;110)day and a good second to Circus Colours over the extended two and a faiff miles on this track lest April. The selection was appearing for the first orne since when well beaten behind smart novice Agistment on a return to Hurtingdon but will be much fitter now and the longer trip will set. August Twelfith, who will be well at home on the testing ground and this scored twice here over two miles one and a half furfores, stays well and should go close. Almai Solt it won a Chepstow seller easing up in December and best Rare Spread and Rockeen Bridge — who both run in the 2-40 — over pourse and distance ten days afterwards. He was pulled up on desperate ground at Newton Abbot but could pose a threat on the center efforts. Leipstheil and four lengths in heard of Milliamont, when they finished second and third behind Meyb-Mayh at Plumpton nine days ago but the latter, with a 7th powerings and Devid Bridgester replacing the Tib-dawner who note him there, can hum the from anound, Mallifette, despite puring poorly, and that of Ritte on solitie ground at Plumpton in November on his reappearance. Well beaten in his next two races, he finished a three-length second to Jove King over the extended two and a quarrar miles on fast ground here 16 days ago and can figure in this, his first handscap.

Selection MONKS SOHAM

BILINERED FIRST THREE DRAWN CRISC (3.1D), WAIRING ERRY (3.10), ERR MEMON (VISURED) (3.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAIS: None. LONG-DESTANCE EXPONERS: Dissolve (2.10) & Wise Nº Shine (2.40) sent 256 miles by N Lampard from Kingsbridge, Devon: Royence (2.10) sent 242 miles by W Bisbourne from Great Ness, Stropeture, Killing Thus (3.40) & Celtic Laird (4.40) sent 225 miles by O Burchell from Briery Hill, Gwent; The Mearcas (2.10), Eure Spread (2.40), St Mellion Leisure (2.40) & Valianthe (3.40) sent 228 miles by M Fipe from Micholashyne, Devon. 2.10 DAVID BENGE NOVICE HANDICAP HARDLE (CLASS F) £2.575 DARRY BALE CONTROL OF THE STATE added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £1,778

005 THE BURY (227) Skips J M Bodycole) M Booley 4 10 0.... - 12 declared -BETTHER: 5-2 Thems Arms, 4-1 Restaurus Way, 5-1 Docklands Courier, 12-2 Denoive, 8-1 Mess-um, 12-1 Denoy Gale, Warning Roof, 14-1 Flow Buck, 20-1 others 1998: No corresponding manting

If she handles the testing ground, THEME ARENA can outgun these: Martin Pipe's thy went in by seven lengths first time up over timber in a nowloss setter at Tauston in November and followed with a time-length second in a big field behind Name Of Our Father at the same track — both on good to firm. Nock Lampard — who has held a scene for just over a year—and 7th-claimer Louis Belier gained then first success under Ruses when Dissolve period the seller at Tauston set Thursday, though they have teemed up successfully in post-to-points. Dissolve, despite going off at 33-1, mestered market teader Dhasan a risck. The gray, who was retained to 5,200 gis, had been besten miles behind Allow at Newbury in November on her previous run and first start since lest February. She is Newfury in Progress for their, so can figure under the 7th penelty. Mesteronus Way has shown his appreciation for twesting to hunding effor faffing to take to cheeting. Gary Moore's charge ran third to Script at Lingfield and struck form when 13 langtle too good for Summer Vas at Plumpton ignod to soft nine days ago. Decidated Counter, third to Regal Pursust at Plumpton on the hunding bow, beaten 27 lengths, was a two-artis-half-length second to that of his latest race when pulled up behind Darsydan at Cheltenham.

Selection: THEME ARENA

3.10 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 2m Penalty Value £2,613 221-455 RED WEAM (15) (b) their Virtual K Vicent 9 12 D ... #732-7 BETAL RUBBER (25) (b) their Virtual K Vicent 9 12 D ... #732-7 BETAL RUBBER (25) (b) Latin E Princi Mais 8 Edwards 12 12 D ... 43344 FERWICK (5) (b) Palyon A W C Pencil R Hodges 10 11 9 ... 54312-3 BUCKLAHD LAD (b) (b) E R M Heigher) D School 6 11 2 ... 0476-110 GETORO (4011 123) (C) (4011 Genor Ferra Limited) R Durfs 10 11 1 ... 487-POOP ROSTIC GENT (5) (D) Stadens Entre Agency Mrs L Jones 9 10 10 ... 6872-D DREWN IS DAMEER (500) (401 A A Headway 7 McGovern 10 50 5 ... 7 descript - 7 SETTIFIC: 7-4 Backland Let, 3-1 Deford Quil, 7-2 Retail Remort, 11-2 Fewerick, 6-1 Red Bown, 14-1 Devote Denoter, 20-1 Reads Gent, 7-2 Retail Remort, 11-2 Fewerick, 6-1 Red Bown, 14-1 Devote Denoter, 20-1 Reads Gent, FORM GUESE SECHLAND LAD was easy to back on his transing debut at Pumpton but ran a promising race to finish a 13-tempth that behind Coorden Hard. Perhaps second best will be Oxford Quil seen if he was towards the early when bitmosting and untripoing three fences out in Distinctive's race at Hurdington, where he was 90 wong in the weights. Retail Remoter was a decent type four sessions ago with a couple of Asoct victories for Josh Gifford's stable and he landed a point-to-point lest April. He made a bit of the running but was eventually puffed up in Caford Quill's race here on his first outing since a second to Chilipour in a hurrier chase at this track in May. Selections BUCHLAND LAD

3.40 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375

—15 declared —

—16 declared —

—17 declared —

—18 declared —

WORKERSTONE TO SEE

2.00 Warp Drive 2.30 Duke Valentino 3.00 Puzziement 3.30 Leading Spirit 4.00 Zorba 4.30 Madrina

STALLS: 71 - quende; rest - indde.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best from 6f to Lm 4f. Fibresand, left-hand, ocal course. ■ Course is north of town on A448. Wolverhampton station 1 m.
ADMOSSION: Cash 515; Taxtersale £6 (£4 for members of Dismord OAF Cash - \$2.50 file membership). GAR FARK: free.

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The second secon

* THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 +

LIVE COMMENTARIES LESDES

0891 261 970

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Aspecto Lad (3.00); Contraveno (4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Printlement (3.00) woo
at Lingsleid on Thursday, Antonius Melody won at Southwell on

at Linguist in Turning, the Monday,
LONG-DESTANCE RUNNIERS: Broctome (3.00) has been sent.
170 miles by Mrs. M Receive from Lingdale, Circuland; Second.
170 miles by Mrs. M Receive from Lingdale, Circuland; Second.
170 miles by Mrs. M Receive from Lingdale, Circuland; Second.
Nicholashayne, Devon; Emery's Treat (2.00) & Chengasar (4.30)
both sent. 143 miles by M Camacho from Norton, North Yorkshire; Sen Devil (2.30) sent. 143 miles by M Camacho from Norton, North Yorkshire; Baffleborough Boy (4.00) have been sent.
142 miles by T II Barron from Maunby, NorthYorkshire.

2.00 GROUSE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 7f SOLUR DAWN M Johnson 38 2 ...

— 11 declared —
EFTENE: 7-4 Sharpo Wassi, 3-1 Salar Daws, 13-2 Who't Host Man, 8-1 Heathyerds Figit, 15-1 Warp Debe, 13-1 Question Silver, Henry's Treat, 14-1 Mystechnic, 15-1 Roofs Rossed, Salar Seventees, 33-1 Prenty Of Samehine

2.30 PARTRIDGE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000 added 77 1 522164 DUE WELHRING (7) (2) DR ? Holder St 0.5 4 _ D winners (8) 2
2 325-40 BEHROD (5) (CB) Mar N Maccalcy 88 12 _ C Tanger (8) 2
3 DODO 30 BORANT (21) DR ? Palment 68 10 _ ____ K Palme 6 V
4 BOLD FATH (25) Winners 48 10 _ ____ K Palme 6 V
5 21-X25- MASERIAM CRY (158) DR J Beny 8 BP _ Robert (8) 6 B
6 DODOS- PEACEPUL REPUY (DSA) (SA) F Macray 8 8 8 _ ___ S Drovine 6
7 DODOS- PEACEPUL REPUY (DSA) (SA) F LE 7 8 6 _ ___ C Palmer 7 V
8 0-38431 SEA DEVIL (B) (CD) M Carractro 118 8 _ ___ C Charactro 12 B- ___ B declared _ B Devil (8-1 lignar Buy, 12-1 Bogart, 14-1 Bold Falth, Millerlam City, 33-1 Peacertal Repty .

3.30 WOODCOCK HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 1m 4f 4241.5 PRINCE DAVING (35) (CD) DM Smith 6 8 12 ... I Browning (5) 6 : 004-102 SECOND COLOURS (21) (3) (30) M Ppu 7 9 10 ... K Pallon 6 44-1112 CHRING CASTLE (5) (C) (D) (BF) P Haskin 4 9 9 ... S Drowne 6 401-542 NRIGHTS STAR (20) (CI) D Murray Smith 48 13... D Hastieus 9 24-3371 LEADWIG SPRIT (186) (D) C Wall 58 12........ B Hallings 4

0-11113 GLOBEROTTER (4) (C) (SP) M Johnston 9 7,

C1-22 PRICHERON (FT) (4) D MOTES 8

- 7 Sectored -BETTING: 11-4 Proziment, 7-2 Marketw, 4-1 Globelrotter, 9-2 Brook Line, 11-2 Aspects Ltd, 8-1 Pinchinete, 29-1 Title Can Tell

- 9 decigrad -BETTERC: 3-1 Chief Castle, 4-1 Leading Spirit, 5-1 Bardon Hill Roy, 11-2 Super High, 8-1 Higher's Start, 7-1 Second Colours, 8-1 Prince Descip, 14-1

3.00 SNEPE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO Im If 79yds 4.00 PHEASANT SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,800 added 3YO 1m 100yds 04-0221, BALLEBOROUGH BOY (12) T D Secon 9 3...... D Her 2150-55 CONTRAVENE (7) (C) J Berry 8 12..... 0- ERER (182) M Charmon 8 12...... 624(0- RSCATTO (172) W Mar 8 12..... 13 MARDREW (22) Different Davis 87 _____ P McCabe (2) 6 5 13-6335 TACHE (11) P Burs 8 12 6 3324-24 ZORBA (14) C Tromton 8 12

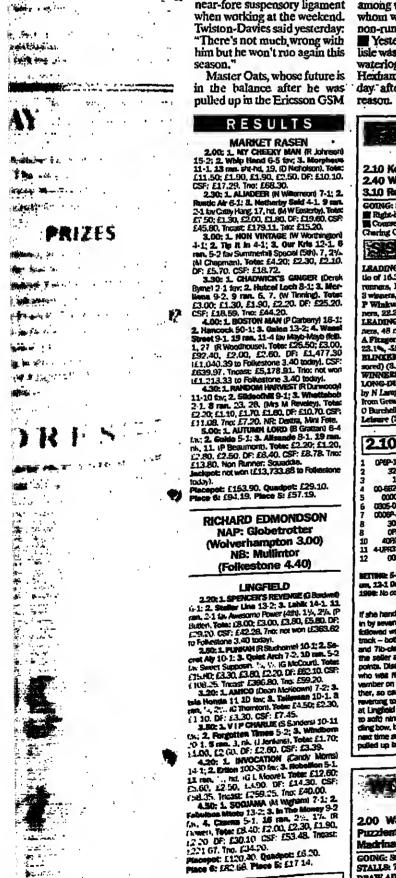
BETTHE: 7-4 Balleborough Soy, 2-3, Zorbe, 9-2 Ejeer, 9-1 Récette, 7-1

4.30 JAY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added

The Happy Fox, Danda Pyer, 15-1 Night Hamony, 25-1 Sing With The Band

Jones said.

ters in April through to the match will be in find a ticket," Jones said. "The move to Spain has brought about the biggest international audience we have ever had at a match. For those at The Belfry there were always tickets available."



The unsung and unpaid heroes of motor racing

ary day; black clouds hurling down spears of icy water. Much as you would expect for another round of winter testing. Except that there are no grand prix cars here today, not even a few gentle histrionics. No crowd, no television. In its way, however, it is just as important as a Formula One test, and everyone out here subjecting himself or herself to the elements is as-

sured as much. "What you do could be lifesaving. You are essential and in-trinsic to what we do here. Without you there is no racing, no grand prix." It is a rallying call the audience of 350 scarcely rethe committed; train-spotters. some would say. These are motor racing marshals.

Just like the millionaire drivers, these volunteers have their training days. Some here are novices, most are on refresher courses. They pay their own way and for their overalls, which can cost £70. Their allowance for the three days of last year's British

Grand Prix meeting was £10. for a marshal - are among They may be in for an increase those who attack the flames

at this year's four-day event. But then, as they tell you, this is their hobby, it's what turns them on. You suspect them to be frustrated motor racers. No. just nuts about the sport," most insist. A middle-aged woman, who has been a marshal for six years, says: "I want to be involved and put something back into the sport. That sounds altruistie, but it's true.

They put something back waving warning flags, extinguishing fires, dragging stricken cars from gravel traps and controlling crowds - at circuits up and down the land. A thousand quires. These are the converted, of them will be on duty at the grand prix here in July.

High summer seems as distant as the next British world champion as instructors from the marshals' club take groups through their specialised tasks. Out in the country, exposed to the full venom of the elements. pleased to see more ladies." fire-fighters tackle a hurning car. A women of modest stature and a boy of 16 - the minimum age

with growing belief. Around 20

per cent of marshals are female. Back in the classroom, the groups settle for instruction and an exchange of opinions. They range from a "gold" man with 30 years experience to "greys" and novices. They are preached the virtues of customer care, the customer being the driver, team member, organiser and specta-tor. "We are like referees." In other words, they get it in the neck from all sides.

You've got to look interested even if you want them to bugger off. We've travelled miles, paid to get there, we're soaking wet, tired, crap food, but we do it because we love it. We have people from different jobs, from a cross-section of the community, but here we are teams and marshals who meet at weekends. Please don't think we are cliquish or weird. We're

That last remark is directed

at two slightly nervous looking

novices. Their apprehension

Derick Allsop spends a testing day at Silverstone with the marshals

becomes more acute with further recollections of encounters with difficult "customers". "I do not expect someone to call me something cow. Not because I am a woman, hut because I am a marshal. Some are offensive." The gold man chimes in:

You've got to be thick-skinned. It's down to experience. One of the pits, not here, is a Stalag 17 job. Even I was shocked." The woman marshal comes back: "1 know they are under stress, but I can accept only a certain amount from them, not abuse." A male marshal with a long memory recounts: "Stirling

Moss asked where bis Ferrari was and was told to sit down in the corner and shut up. And he Another marshal: There's a certain lady, who is the exception, who tells you to

eff off. What do you do?" A col-

league proffers a solution:
"You've had your fire training
- aim at her." One of the novices, by now perplexed, asks:

"What are these complaints?" Someone leaning casually in the corner responds: "Why can't I do that? Why can't I go there? Why am I disqualified? The gold man comes to the rescue. "Don't think it's so bad. It's fun. These are the negative sides. Don't take it personally. just get it sorted."

After lunch another group is Team discipline is declared essential. "The last thing we need is heroes. At the scrutineering bay, the rescue crew demonstrate their efficiency with cut-ting equipment. They can remove the roof of a touring car in five minutes. "If we can't get a driver out, no one can.

Heroes or not, British marshals are content to perpetuate the claim that they are the best trained and regimented in the world. A former chief incident officer, battle-weary and scarred,



digesting procedural guidance in the event of a major incident.

Derick Allsop (centre) feels the heat with the marshals in the event of a major incident.

during testing at Silverstone Photograph: Peter Jay Photograph: Peter Jav

says: "I don't think some team managers would realise we are here today - or even care."

Gary Dearn worked his way through the ranks to become the present chief incident officer here and his wife, Pam, from the banks to the control tower. There's more enjoyment at club meetings than grand prix meetings. The grand prix is the pinnacle and everyone is drawn by the speed and hype. But to be honest, it's not worth the

hassle and the bull," he said The expansion of the grand prix meeting to four days loads still beavier demands on the shoulders of the volunteers, but a full complement has been assigned and already they are planning their minimum requirement of 15 days' service this season to qualify for the big race next year. As long as they have

Bradford keeper ALAN NIXON

Everton

bid for

Football

Everton have made a £1.4m bid for Bradford City's Australian goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer. Joe Royle hopes to complete the deal today for the 24-yearold, who has played only in games for the Yorkshire club since joining them from Kaiserslautern for £200,000.

Schwarzer has a clause in his contract saying he can leave for any offer over £1m and the Everton move appeals to him. hwarzer competes with Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich for Australia's No 1 shirt and has been called up by Terry Venables for his squad as they prepare for World Cup qualifying matches. their thick skins and packed sandwiches, motor racing in this country is in safe hands.

Blackburn Rovers manager. Tony Parkes, made a £2.5 m bid for the Danish striker Per Pedersen last night. The Odense forward is due to fly in today to ioin Blackburn after a dramatic move by Parkes to stop the Rovers slide. Parkes wants Pedersen signed in time to make his debut at Liverpool on Saturday.

Swansea's chairman. Doug Sharpe, has put the Third Di-vision club back up for sale at £300,000, a fifth of what he says the club owes him. The decision follows continued arguments hetween him and the manager, Jan Molhy. "I have done my best to keep the club in the top four," Sharpe said . "That's my lot. I won't put in another penny. I want out."

Cardiff fans have heen hanned from attending the Third Division derby at Swansea, The match, originally scheduled for 1 March, has been put hack a day to Sunday and will kick off at noon. Because of a long history of trouble between the supporters, Swansea fans were refused admission to Ninian Park when the clubs met in December.

The all Second Division FA Cup quarter-final tie between Chesterfield and Wrexham has heen switched to Sunday 9 March at 12 noon from the Saturday on police advice, as Chesterneld's near neighbours Derby have a home game on the

on the Saturday. Brighton supporters' representatives have been asked by the Gillingham chairman. Paul Scally, to carry out a survey to determine whether fans want the proposed ground-share at the Priestfield Studium. Scally has requested the move after threatening to scrap the deal because of ficrce opposition from Seag-ulls fans, who do not want a 170-

mile round trip for home games. Premiership clubs will adopt a standard design for numbers and names on team shirts next season, Premier League elubs agreed a rule change at this month's meeting to ensure players' numbers and names are clearly identifiable by fans and TV cameras alike.

lan Ferguson has been given a final warning about his conduct by Scotland's manager. Craig Brown, after the Rangers player used abusive language after the World Cup match against Estonia in Monte Carlo

Penalties to come before extra time 🔞

A revolutionary plan to hold the penalty shoot-out before playing extra time if a match is lev after 90 minutes was approved by the referees' committee of Fifa vesterday.

After a two-day meeting in Zurich, the committee approved the idea, which does not need the assent of the game's law-making body, the International Board.

Andreas Herren, a spokesman for football's world governing body, said: "This decision comes under Fifa regulations for competitions. So if a national association wants to organise its cup competition using this method, they are free to do so. Uefa, for example, could introduce this at 14. the next European Champion-

In other wide-ranging proposals to make the game more attractive, the committee told Fifa that players scoring a goal by deliberate handball should be sent off, that the back-pass rule should be extended to all parts of the body and that the goalkeeper should he allowed to move along his line when facing a penalty. Some of the items will be discussed when the International Board meets in Belfast on 1 March,

Herren added; "Some of the items on what we have called the referees' shopping list can he activated immediately, like the penalty kicks before extra time, and some of them need to be discussed by the Board, but they are all being introduced to make the game more attractive."

Scotland end patient Tait's wait

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Alan Tait's quiet re-emergence as a rugby union centre of serious quality was given fresh momentum yesterday when the Scottish selectors followed the example of their Lions counterparts and drafted him into the senior squad. The Newcastle centre was one of three players promoted from the A team for the match with Ireland at Mur-

rayfield on Saturday week. At 32. That is hardly a rook-ie. He won the first of his eight caps a full decade ago - he came on as a replacement in the 28-22 defeat by France at the Pure des Princes - and the last of them against England in Edinburgh the following season. But before throwing in his lot with rughy league at the end of 1988. he had proved himself a strong, capable midfield linchpin.

Tait was a firm favourite to face England just over a fort-night ago, but Richie Dixon, the Scottish coach, felt a rushed re-

turn to full international rugby would be too much. England's

record victory forced a re-think. He is 99 per cent certain to face the Irish; his midfield partner will be either Tony Stanger. who impressed against England, or Gregor Townsend, who may be moved outside to make room for the more orthodox Craig Chalmers at outside-half.

There are two other changes in the Scottish 21. Duncan Hodge, the Watsonians standoff, is included - a move that suggests Chalmers has every chance of a recall - as is Cameron Glasgow, the Heriot's wing who went to South Africa with the World Cup squad in 1995 but remains uncapped. Two centres, Ronnie Eriksson and Scott Hastings, and the right wing, Derek Stark, drop out to secommodate the newcomers.

South African rugby in shock as Andre Markgraaff resigns as Springbok manager after he admits making racist remarks in a secretly taped telephone conversation

Page 12

Commemorating the retirement of the world's best loved umpire. THE 'DICKIE' BIRD **CHARACTER JUG**



A strictly limited edition of 9,500

Monday 24th June, 1986 legendary cracket umpure and Yorkshireman Hamild Dickie Bird MBE retired from international crucket, after presiding over his 65th Test Match, 42 One Day International Matches, 4 World Cup Tournaments and 3 World Cup Finals. He will continue to unipute county matches before hanging up his lamous white cap but the very List time in 1997. Now Royal Doubton commemorates Dickie's unique contribut to the game with the Dickie Bird Character Jue, Handserafied, and painted in traditional Royal Doulion sixle the jug captures perfectly the warmth and individuality of Dickies character With a delightful cricker but handle bearing the Test and County Cricker Board initials, has available only from Lawleys by Post for £49.95.

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signal notice that the second of the second

Mud lark: Laurent Cabannes, of Harlequins, gets hold of Auckland's Junior Tonu'u at The Stoop yesterday

Auckland benefit from changed Quins

DAVID STEVENS

Harlequins Auckland

Auckland were forced to battle hard for a narrow victory at The Stoop yesterday. In their second match of their warm-up tour of Europe before they defend their Super-12 title, they twice

trailed before their second row

Richard Fromont went over in

the corner for the ninth try of

the match to put his side 30-29 ahead. Kicking a pitch that resemhled a swamp, Adrian Cashmore was successful with two

penalties and a conversion from seven shots with the clinching goal in the final minute. In an attempt to keep players fresh for their Pilkington Cup

quarter-final against Saracens on Sunday, Harlequins changed seven players - including five at half-time.

By conceding 18 penalties.

Harlequins put paid to their chances of an upset after Bristol had collapsed against the tourists last week. Auckland next face the European champions. Brive, before taking on the South African Provinces

next month Joeli Vidiri pursued Lee Stensness's diagonal kick for an early try, but Harlequins established a 22-5 lead when Dominic Chapman scored on the blind side, Peter Mensah was given a soft interception and

Auckland were grateful when scrum half Junior Tonu'u dummied over for a converted try in first-half injury time.

Gareth Llewellyn went over

Thierry Lacroix converted

twice and landed a penalty and

after a maul.

After the substitutions of ahead with tries by Brian Lima and Mark Carter. Cashmore claimed a penalty

22-12 interval deficit to go

Jason Leonard and Will Carling. Auckland clawed back from a

The former Scotland in-

ternational, Alan Sharp, is set

to join the Courage League Two

side Coventry from Bristol for

£75,000 subject to a medical.

Coventry have agreed to buy out the remaining 18 months of

the loose-head prop's contract

with Bristol and he will be re-

united with several former

team-mates at Coundon Road.

as well as the ex-Bristol captain

Derek Eves, who is now direc-

enough. CHOUGH.
Ancidand: Tries Vidm, Toru'u, Lima, Certér, Fromont.; Courseration Castenore: Panalities Castenore. Panalities Castenore. 2. Mariequins: Tries Chapman, Merusah, Llewollyn. Walshe; Conversions Lacrox 2. Concorn: Penality Lacrox. Hartequains: Physm; Chapman, Carling, Mensoh, Luger; Lacrox, Walshe; Lornard, Bilups, Mullins, Snow, Garetin Lleweilyn, Davison. Cabbannes, Jenidins.

Auctiond: Cashmore; 'Adm, Carke, Stensne Lima: Spencer, Tonu'u; Crawford, Roo-Brown, Fromort, Brooke, Lefa-airi, Richelmar

lenge in my career. There have

been offers from other clubs in

the past, including Newcastle,

but this move is right for me and

Sharp has been capped six

times by Scotland and still har-

hours ambitions of playing

again for his adopted country.

rector, said: "We never wanted

Alan to leave, but ever since

Coventry made the initial

approach the player has made

it clear he wanted to move.

Therefore, we had no alterna-

tive but to seek an amicable

Derek Brown, a Bristol di-

my family."

in between, but Nick Walsh, the

Quins scrum-half, scored a

blindside try on the hour, but

their four point lead was just not

Llanelli resigned to Evans' month-long absence increasing his Welsh try-scoring record to 32. solitary success in the last seven "The opportunity provided by Coventry gives me a new chal-

leuan Evans is unlikely to play again before Wales' Five Nations' Championship match against England at Cardiff Arms Park on 15 March hecause of injury. That leaves his club, Llanelli, with an unwanted gap to fill during a crucial part of their season.

The former Wales captain suffered a slight hamstring pull during Wales' 27-22 defeat against France in Paris lust Saturday, being forced off midway through the second half. but the injury will probably be enough to keep the winger out until the England came Unfortunately for Llanelli. they are entering a crucial

FA Carling Premiership

1 Chelsea v Manchester United 2 Coventry v Everton

4 Liverpool v Blackburn

S Middlesbrough v Newcastle

a Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa

7 Southampton v Sheff Wednesday

Playing Sunday: Arsenal v Wimbledor day: West Ham v Tottenham, * Pools panel to adjudicase.

First Division

10 Barnsley v Wolves

11 Charton v Norwich 12 Crystal Palace v Tronmere
13 Huddersfield v Bolton
14 tysyich v Oxford

17 Reading v Southend

18 Sheffield United v Grimsby

20 West Brom v Portsmouth ...

21 Blackpool v Stockport...... 22 Brondord v Bournemouth

24 Burnley v Bristol Rovers.

25 Bury v Notts County 26 Chesterfield v Plymouth

Gerond Division

Nationwide Football League

stage of the season, facing a Swalec Cup tie at Abertillery on Saturday, followed by league games against Cardiff, Caerphilly and Swansea.

Anthony Buchanan, the Scarlets team manager, said vesterday: There is every chance that leuan will miss all those matches. He has started treatment with the Welsh Rugby Union's medical team, although at this stage, everyone is confident he will be fit to face

ternational appearances - a try when Wales beat England 10-9 four seasons ago, their

Third Division

35 Northemation y Doncaster

37 Sounthorpe v Cotchester

39 Wigen v Leyton Orient .

Premier Division

42 Motherweit v Cettic

First Division

44 Andrie v East Fife

40 Dunferminte y Aberdes

Bell's Scottish League

Also playing (not on coupons): Barnet v Fulham, Brighton v Swarsea, Cardiff v Harte-pool, Chester v Mansfield, Playing Friday; Cambridge Utd v Carliste.

42 Krimamock v Dundes United

Playing Sunday: Rangers v Hibertran.

45 Chrisbank v Spring Altron

Also playing (not on coupons): Erechin v Ayr. Hamilton v Clyde. Queen of the South v Dumbarton, Stranieer v Livingston. Third Dhysion: Allos v Artmath. Coudenbeath

48 5: Mirren v St Jahnstone

49 Berwick v Stenhousemur

Second Division

meetings between the countries. suffered an ankle dislocation which cost him around 15 fur-

Evans, who has made 71 in-Welsh record - scored the only WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

Evans has had his problems with injuries, having dislocated his right shoulder five times and

ther caps.
The Welshman is a leading candidate for the Lions captaincy in South Africa this summer, as the fortunes of rivals such as Scotland's Roh Wainwright and Ireland's Keith Wood have faltered through form and injury. He was on the Lions tours to Australia in 1989 and New Zealand in 1993.

Evans has scored four tries in his last four internationals,

TODAY'S

NUMBER

438

The number of ranking places

separating world tennis No

547 Louise Latimer, the War-

wickshire 19-year-old, from

world No 109 Angeles Mon-

tolio, whom she beat 6-3, 6-0

in the first round of the LTA

Ladies Event in Redbridge

vesterday.

"I was starting to feel a bit stale at Bristol and didn't see any future for me there," Sharp TODAY'S FIXTURES

tor of rugby at the club.

Four draws: Chelsea v Manchester Unit-SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG ed. Barnsley v Wolves, Dunfermisne v Ab-erdeen, Fallurk v Partick ckport v Mide FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Arsessi v Manchester Utd (8.0)
Aston Ville v Coventry (7.45)
Derby v Steffield Wednesday (7.45)
Livernool v Leate (7.45) Five aways: Newcaste, Botton, Porsmouth Wrestram, Celtic. Pain temes: Lecester, Userpool, Crystal Palace, Manchester City, Sheffeld United, Brentiford, Luton, Hearts, Clydebank, Verpool v Leeds (7.45) ______ West Ham v Newcastle (7.45) ___

Football

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Queen's Park Rangers v Reading (7.45) GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE SPALDING CLP QUARTER-FINAL REPLAY Stalybridge v Morecambe (7.45) BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION Range Rangers v Dondee Utd (7.45)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: traken Serie B Under-21 XI v Nationalde Footbell Leegue Under-21 XI v Nationalde Footbell Leegue Under-21 XI v 13.0) jet Stadio Luigi Ferroris, Genoel. ICLS LEAGUE Pressier Division: Historio Borough v Bishop's Stortford, First Division: Chesham v Tooting & Mitcher (T-45). Third Division: Fiscionell Heath v Heriow (T-45). Division: Flackwell Heath v Harlow 17.451. UNBORND LEAGUE First Division: Bradford Parl-Avenue v Stocksbridge Park Streets. Chadlenge Cup fourth round: Boston Ulsi v Emley. DR MARTIENS LEAGUE Haldard Division: Pages Rangers v Eventum: Ranuds v Strephed Dy-nomo; VS Rugby v Bedworth (7.45). Southern Division: Bushley v Havant; Dardord v Witney 17.45).

TH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRST Di-

REWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Christchurch ATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE Mislom Crook v Morpeth; Durham Cry am; Whickham v Gusborough; Whitby v

Essington.
WELSH CUP Quarter-final replay: Combran b Holywel.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernadon v Fint (7.45); Camarthen v Abenstayth: Cemaes Bey v Conwy; Ton Penze v Birton Ferty.
PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cachnacuddin v Hurthy; Deveronnale v Kesth; Eigh City v Fort William: Fraserburgh v Loesemouth.

mouth.

Pontins League First Division: Blackpool v Notis County (7.0); Huddersheld v Sunderland (7.0); West Bromwich Albon v Port Vale (7.0) (of Halsoower Town), Second Division: Burnley v Hull City (7.1); Entherham v York (7.0); Shifwisbury v Grimsby (7.0), Tailed Division: Charlington v Wigar (7.0); Doncecter v Walsasi (7.0); Porchalae v Chestel (7.0); Scunderma v Burt (7.1). thorne v Bury (7.D). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION League Cup: Swansea v Ordord Utal (2.0): Wimbledon v Brumemouth (2.0) (al Plough Lene); Mithreal v Wantord (2.01.

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham

Ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Engles v New castle Cobras 17,30).

Other sports

German call-up for **Dundee**

Football

When Berti Vogts called Sean Dundee into the German national squad yesterday, it was another step in a career which has taken the South Africanborn player to the top of the Bundesliga goal-scoring list.

Dundee began the 1995/96 season classed as an amateur with Karlsruhe, who signed him after spells with Stuttgart Kickers and Ditzingen.

Dundee, now 24, quickly established himself in the first team and had scored 16 league goals by the end of the season.

"He's a dynamic young man, a great header of the ball and totally selfish. All strikers are totally selfish," Vogts said after announcing the squad, but added: "I hope he keeps his carefree

Dundee earned a call-up to the South African national squad in December 1995 - ironically the match was against Germany - but withdrew because of injury.

Media reports suggested the injury was a convenient excuse for a player who had posters of Jürgen Klinsmann and Thomas Hässler on his bedroom wall as finals of the FA Cup. a boy and dreamed of playing for Germany.

When it became clear Vogts was interested, Dundec, although of non-German origin, took advantage of a special fast-track procedure for cases of "public interest" to apply for a German passport.

The issue became something of a political football, with South African politicians accusing Dundee of turning his back on his homeland while their German counterparts asked why a football player

should get special treatment. Away from that controversy. fortunes have gone from

month, the club's souvenir shop

was shut while lager had ceased

to flow in the bar. The creat

refuge of the cock-up, techni-

semi-final first leg against Mid-

dleshrough looming, the pros-

pects were not looking hright.

nical gaffe as total crassness.

Dave Jones is not only Sec-

Jimmy White took another

step on the road to recovery

with an encouraging victory

over Dave Finbow at the In-

ternational Open in Aherdeen

The six-times World Cham-

pionship runner-up arrived in

Scotland without a win since last

April, having lost 12 consecu-

tive matches. But an opening

victory over Duhlin's Michael

Judge stopped that sequence

and vesterday's 5-1 second-

"I am still a hit green when

strength to strength. He was voted Player of the Year in 1996 by his fellow professionals and is the Bundesliga's leading scorer this season with 14 goals so far. Brian Horton, the Huddersfield Town manager, arrived in Italy yesterday with the Nationwide League Under-21 team for tonight's annual game against their Serie B counterparts in Sampdoria's Luigi Ferraris.

Horton is determined the Italians will not record their first win in three matches since these meetings were given an Under-21 age limit in 1995. England's Under-21s heat

Italy last week, but unfortunately we lost the hig one that mattered at Wembley," Horton

"But this is a chance to show the Italian people that we are capable at every level, from full international through to the Under-21s and into the Football League - a chance to show that English football is not all about the Premiership.

"ft's heen a good year for the Nationwide League, with Stockport through to the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup and either Chesterfield or Wrexham assured of a place in the semi-

"That's magnificent for the game, It shows that lower division clubs can still compete on the field despite the Premiership getting stronger and stronger in financial terms. Although I want everybody involved to enjoy it. I also want to go home

having won the game."

With his goalkeepers Chris Day and Richard Wright drop-ping out of the original party along with Lee Crooks, Darren Eadie and James Scowcroft. Horton has drafted in Kelvin Davis, of Luton, the Norwich pair of Andy Marshall and Danny Mills, as well as turning though, the unassuming striker's to his own club side for Ian

Anyone would think Stockport moured to be interested in

County were not ready for the tempting him to fill the vacan-

hig time. When they met cy at Boundary Park, it will



Celtic's Malky Mackay (right) attempts to pass Keith Wright, of Hibernian, at Easter Road on Monday night. The keenly contested Scottish Cup fourth-round match ended in a 1-1 draw. The winners of the replay will play host to Rangers in the quarter-final Photograph: Reuter

Wenger promises 'surprise' signing

Arsène Wenger yesterday promised to sign a new striker hefore next month's transfer deadline, but on the eve of tonight's home match against Manchester United he said: "We are already good enough to win the Premiership."

Arsenal's coffers were £2.5m. That hit of business means Wenger can aim high in his search for a goalscorer. Ajax's Dutch international

and Auxerre's Algerian mid-fielder, Moussa Saib, are thought to be on his list.

Wenger, whose team are two points behind United going in to tonight's game - the first of a series in which all the leading Premiership title challengers visit swelled last week by the £5m. Highbury, will not rush into the sale to West Ham of John Hartson, for whom the Gunners paid somebody for sure before the transfer deadline and it could be a surprise name," he said.

John Lukic continues to deputise for the England goalkeeper, David Seaman, and

Boer, Milan's Marco Simone Arsenal's captain, Tony Adams, in championship terms, is in our and Auxerre's Algerian mid-having tested his damaged anown hands." kle against Tottenham on Saturday, is fit to face United, but David Plant is still out with a

hamstring injury. United are likely to have Nicky Burt and David May back after injuries. Liverpool's manager, Roy Evans, also has first-team players back in action and so faces difficult choices, With only Phil Babh ruled out, Evans said ahead of the home League match with Leeds tonight: "Our hand has never been stronger. If we can get it right our destiny,

The Leeds manager. George Graham, whose side went out of the FA Cup at the hands of First Division Portsmouth at Elland Road on Saturday, said: "If I dropped one player because of their form on Saturday, I would

have to drop nine," he said. Ian Rush hopes for a recall for the game at Anfield, but he expects no favours. He said "I know my old pals will be pulling everything out to send me away with no points to show for the

was that talk of "consolida-

tion" the previous year had

heen to mask a decline, and

I ask for is three things: abili-

ty, commitment and the right at-

titude; I was getting them one

or two at a time, we were not

Some of it must have hit

home because County are fifth

in their division after losing just

four League matches since and

are also through to the north-

ern semi-finals of the Auto

"No Premiership side is going to be easy, but I think we can heat them," Jones said. If they

can hridge the chasm between

the Second Division and the

Tonight Wembley is in sight.

Windscreens Shield.

putting them all together."

"We bad a shake-up, left a

Les Ferdinand is relishing a head-to-head contest with his cousin Rio as Newcastle take on struggling West Ham at Upton Park. Les is poised to face the 18-year-old centre-back for the first time in a competitive

West Ham are without the suspended Slaven Bilic and Marc Rieper has an ankle injury so Rio will be handed the task of keeping 17-goal Les quiet. West Ham's new strikers. Hartson and Paul Kitson, will

make their home debuts. Birmingham flotation, page 18



stay at Stockport, and it wasn't

just a matter of money. "Obviously, you are going to have speculation if a contract remains unsigned, but there was just a minor detail to sort out, and it has been." For that, everyone at Edgeley Park

Jones: Three-year deal Ellwood. However, last night he said: "I am more than happy to

should be most grateful.

Erratic Henman scrapes through

Tennis

Tim Henman, the British No 1 who is battling to rediscover his best form, began the process by scrambling to 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 against Spain's Sergi Bruguera in the first round of the European Community Championship in Antwerp yesterday.

Henman, seeded sixth, appears to have lost a little confidence since his first-round defeat to Germany's Martin Sinner in the Duhai Open last week, and his backhand repeatedly let him down yester-

Bruguera, a wild-card entry, is ranked 47 in the world, 28 places below Henman, hut he is still a class player, having twice won the French Open, in 1993

The British No 1 took the first set easily enough and was twice a break up in the second hefore Bruguera squared the match at

one set all. Then, in a third set of missed opportunities on both sides. Bruguera led 2-1 and had a hreak point for 3-I in the fourth game. Henman saved it in the following rally, held his serve for 2-2 and had a break point himself in the fifth game.

His erratic backhand let him down again, however, and Bruguera hung on to his service for 3-2. Games then went with service to 4-4, before Henman gained the only break of the ser in the ninth game to lead 5-4 and

he served out for victory. Reaching the final of the Qatar Dpen in Doha and then winning the Sydney International last month took Henman up to 14 in the world rankings. Since then he has lost in the third round of the Australian Dpen and the first round in

Dubai and is now down to 19. He has also been struggling slightly with a groin injury, a legacy of too much physical work in the past few weeks as he tries to build up his strength.

大きの世界の大学者

, 425

"I wasn't able to finish the job off and that's where I probably made life difficult for myself," Henman said, "I was able to hang in there and got my opportunity in the third and was able to hang on to it. I'm pleased to come through a match like that. I needed it."

Henman, 22, now meets Mikael Tillstrom in the second round in what will be his first match with the Swedish player. The top four seeds, including Croatia's Goran Ivaniscvie, en-

ter the fray today. The British No 2. Greg Rusedski, has been forced to pull out of the ATP Tour event in Memphis because of his recent wrist trouble. The 23-year-old. who hurt his left wrist during the final - which he conceded against the world No I. Pete Sampras, in San Jose on Sunday. saw a specialist in Los Angelcs yesterday and was advised to

withdraw. Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe will renew their rivalry in London this year- not at Wimhledon hut at the Royal Albert Hall. The famous concert hall will be the venue for the seasonending event of Europe's ATP Senior Tour of Champions from 5 to 8 December.

cal problems, were hismed. with his chairman, Brendan After waiting 114 years to Ellwood. duced extravagant results on There was not much forprogress to the latter stages of This, it is hoped, will end the meagre resources. tune. either, in Jones' playing ca-The cluh's record signing a major competition, you would uncertainty which had threatreer, which halted prematurely have expected them to be bet-

ened to hinder the progress of ter prepared hut, with tonight's Jones' excellent side. Skilful and keen 10 play the hall through the midfield rather than just hoof it in the direction To be in a contractual dispute of the lanky Brett Angell, they with your manager on the eve are a credit to their manager of the higgest match in your his- and a Second Division that is

come as a relief to the Stockport

in charge at Edgeley Park with-

out a contract. Jones finally

signed a three-year deal yes-

terday after protracted talks

share of cup shocks this season. But even Wrexham and Chesterfield would acknowledge the ond Division manager of the greater conquests of Stockport. month (for December and January) hut flavour of it as well. with wins at Blackhurn and With Oldham Athletic ru- Southampton and another over

it's great to be playing on the

match table instead of the prac-

"I am quite close to feeling re-ally comfortable out there. But

sometimes your reputation can

work against you. Players tend

to mise their games because of

who I am, I know, though, I

should be experienced enough

Ronnie O'Sullivan joined

White in the third round, O'Sul-

livan had heen severely critical

of his opening performance and the hangover seemed to re-

world No S9, took a 3-1 inter-

val lead. But O'Sullivan stepped

to cope with that."

Guy Hodgson talks to the motivator of Stockport, who tackle Middlesbrough in tonight's Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals

Jones signs up as County go hunting again

by Danny Bergara has pro-

and captain, Mike Flynn, cost £150,000, which is less than a month's wages for Fahrizio Ravanelli, whom he will be marking tonight. Yet if any set of giant-killers came swaggering in against Premiership leviathans with little reason to be underestimated, it is County.

tory seemed not so much a tech- producing more than its fair "We have shown against Blackhurn, West Ham and Southampton that we can match Premiership teams," Jones said, and we certainly won't be going out against Middleshrough

West Ham at Edgeley Park.
The team that Jones has built on top of the solid foundations left matches is talking rubhish. There was no luck in it."

due to injury. Now 40, he was a defender with Everton in the 1970s when the "School of Science" was going through a less academic period but he had sufficient class to win an England Under-21 cap and played in the League Cup final of 1977. He moved to Coventry City two years later and then on to Preston North End. where his League days ended in 1984 at the age of 28.

From there he took a route into management that is rarely

used these days, noo-League six matches. Then the suspicion football, having spells with Morecumbe, Southport and Mossley. Even when he joined lockport as youth-learn coach the season they were promoted from the old Fourth Division, 1990-91, the chances of becom-

ing manager seemed remote. Yet as the cluh's profile rose with four visits to Wembley twice in the play-offs and twice in the Autoglass Shield - so did Jones. He became first-team coach, then assistant manager, and, when Bergara's tempestuous relationship with Elwood ended, allegedly, in fisticuffs, he took over in March 1995.

It was an unplanned path and all done without a contract of course - "I was ready to leave Stockport if I'd got a hetter of-fer even a month before Danny left" - and one that looked likely to reach a cul-de-sac as re- Premiership again, he might just cently as last September when wish he had waited a while and Stockport had two points from asked for a better deal from

Apr. Blackgool v Brendford; Wasford v Ches-terfield.

MONDAY'S JATE RESULTS: Tements Scotthan Cup Fourth normal Hibertian 1 Cetto 1
repsty Wednesder 25 February, 6M Veurhad Conference Severage 2 Hayes 0, Postponeth Hednesfor 0 Hedras, FA Limbro
Trophy Selcond-round second replay:
Bromsgore 0 Hyde but 2 Hyde away to Asimu Uarl, 6th Marthers Lasgoe Preside Division: Wordester 0 Gloucester 0, Unitsond
Laegue First Division: Asixon but 2 Warmiglion 2, kid staague First Division: Widesky 1 Camery Island 2, Profites Langue First
Division: Wide-24 Sheffield Urd 2 (of Testord,
Laegue Cup i Group Three: Wednesm 4
Stockport 0, FA Youth Cup Fourth round:
Peterborough 1 Crystal Palace 3, Under-15
International: England 2 Sweden 2 for 186shall.

ice hockey

NHL: NY Islanders 1 Montreal 4: NY Pangers 2 New Jersey 2 (200); Los Angeles 1 Dales 2; Tampa Bay 3 Demont 3 (60): Arenelm 4 Ed-monton 1: St Louis 4 Chicago 2. ice skating

The International Skating Union has or-dered an immediate review of its judg-ing system to find a way to make results more understandable to the public. The

move is a result of confusion that sur-rounded the men's finel at the European championships in Paris test month when Alevel Urmanov, the Russian Olympic champion, took the lead only after the final skater, who did not get among the medals, had finished. "It is crucial that the public can easily understand how our sport is Judged... we must develop a fair and comprehensi-ble system, the ISU president, Ottavio Motor racing

ting down trees to extend the receivack's safety zone jeopardized the race in 1994 and 1995.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN (Aberdeen) Second round. O O'Nane (NZ) bt J Watterna (Thai) 5-2: M Widelms (Wal) bt A Hode: [Eng 5-2: N Bond (Eng) bt Ji Roe (Eng) 5-2: R O'Sulterna (Eng) bt S Pattman (Eng) 5-3: J Write (Eng) bt O Frincie (Eng) 5-1.

Louise Latimer, the British junior chempion, produced the finest result of her career when she upset the No 5 seed, Angeles Montolio of Spain, 6-3, 6-0, in the first round of the LTA women's event at Redbridge yesterdey. The Warwickstire 19-year-old, who cancelled out a ranking difference of more than 400 places, now faces the British No 2, Claire Taylor. She defeated Julia Abe, of Germany, 6-3, 6-1.

LIA WOMEN'S EVENT (Redbridge) Singles, first round: C Taylor (GB) bt J Abe (Ger) 6-36-1: Letturer (GB) bt A Mortolo (Sp) 6-36-0: N Dechy (Fr) bt 3 Schwenz (Aut) 6-46-2; E Tatarlove (Ukr) bt S Park (S Kor) 6-46-1: S Georges (Fr) bt H Rosen (Isr) 6-4

ret; V Csurgo (Hun) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 2-6 6-4 7-5; P Gesper (Hun) bt K Takuma (Japan) 1-6 5-2 6-3; S Router (Neth) bt K Guse (Jaus 6-3 6-3; O Berabasschikova (Belel bt L Woodroffe (GB) 6-3 6-2; S 9-d-dell (GB) bt E Bond (GB) 4-6 6-1 6-0, C Tor-rers-Velero (Sp) bt M Mrot; (Po) 6-3 7-5; L Ahl (GB) bt S Kloesel (Ger) 6-1 6-4.

Ani (GB) bt S Koosel (Ger) 6-1 6-4; ST JUDE INTERNATIONAL (Memphie, Tennessee) Memb singles, first round: P Ratter (Aus) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-4 6-3; J Gimelsob (US) bt J Grabb (US) 4-6 6-3 7-6; M Norman (Swe) b T Carbonell (Sp) 7-5 3-6 6-3; 3 Steven (NC) bt M Ondruska (SA) 6-36-3; Bistern (Nc) bt M Ondruska (SA) 6-36-3; S Draper (Aus) bt L Jensen (US) 7-6 7-6; B Sheton (US) bt S Byan (US) 5-7 7-6 6-4; G Kuersan (Gr) bt B Black (Zim) 6-2 6-7 7-6; J Frans (Arg) bt M Filippin (Uru) 6-4 6-4.

Snow reports

IGA CLASSIC (Oktahoma City) Women's singles, first round: L. Raymond (US) at hischwend; (LW) 5-7-6-2-7-5; F. Lubani (It) bt A Frazer (US) 7-6-7-5; C. Cristea (Rom) at J. Watanabe (US) 6-4-6-2; R. Sympson (Can) bt R. Hirste (Japan) 6-2-3-6-6-3. ox N Harah (Japan) 6-2 3-6 6-3. EUROPEAN COMMENTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Anthreep, Bel) Men's singles, Brist nound: J Sanches (Spil trie Develorann (Ben 6-4 6-2: M Rosset (Swit) br 4 Mechestes (Bris 6-3 6-2: T Henman (GB) bx 5 Brugues (Spil 6-3 6-8 6-4-2; M 4 Goetines (Gent bx M Such 7-6-6-4 5-4; M.A. Goetner (Gen of M. Such 7-6-6-4)
HANOVER SRAND PROX WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Germany) Singles, first round: D
von Roost (Bei ist O Chladhova (Cg Rep) 7-6
4-6-6-3; V. Linkhonseon (Rust is N Traught (Fn
4-6-7-6-6-2; R Dragomir (Rom) for B Retner
[Gen*4-6-6-3-7-5; A Carlsson (Swe) for F Paitem (t) 3-6-6-3-6-4; B Schwiz-Mocardy (Nethi
for F Labat (Arg) 6-4-7-6.

Area Last Lwr Upp Foreca open snow cm cm

it comes to winning said the 34-year-old White. However, complete a 5-3 victory. Ranatunga condemns Taylor

round success was more like the main as Stuart Pettman. the

White rediscovers his form

tice table.

last night.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, has accused Mark Taylor of condoning "sledging". Ranatunga was reacting to state-ments by the Australia captain after the recent West Indies tour. where he accused Ranatunga and Brian Lara of provocation.

"I think he [Lara] is an antagonist – there's no doubt about it. I think he plays it very well, along the lines of a Ranatungatype player." Taylor said after Lara accused the Australians of "sledging" the West Indies opencr Robert Samuels.

statement by saying that during only there they can emanate."

their last tour in Australia, Sri Lanka were subjected not only to racial abuse but even deliberate physical contact.

The Sri Lankan captain also pointed out that Taylor is the successor to a proud tradition of great Australian captains and cricketers such as Sir Donald Bradman, who have unreservedly condemned sledging.

"Taylor, by condoning such methods, is not only doing great disservice to himself, but to his predecessors as well. My earnest request to him is that he should captain the team as a leader should. Leave those disgusting Ranatunga responded in a methods in the gutter, whence

American football

The London Monarchs have made de-fensive and Ben Williams their top pick-in the World League of American Foot-ball's annual draft. Williams was on the books of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at he start of the 1996 season.

Athletics

Athletics

International, Indoor Meeting (Moscow) Selected Mem Gor: 10 Estiva (Memonia 6. Tosec: 2 P Gallin (Rus) 5.76: 3 S Kononyuk (Rus) 6.77: 200m: 1 O Estiva (Memonia 21.38sec: 2 M Grutal (Hun) 21.57: 3 D Bey (Rus) 21.58. L. Soom: 1 W Tahui (Hem) 31.59: 1.350m: 1 W Tahui (Hem) 31.59: 21.58. L. Soom: 1 W Tahui (Hem) 31.59: 25 M O'Sulivon (Rep of In) 3.40.67. Women: 60m: 1 P Privatora (Rus) 7.08sec: 2 N Merzhalova (Rus) 7.26: 3 N Roshchupkina (Rus) 7.34. 200m: 1 N Variona (Rus) 23.24: 3 P Dans (Bah) 23.37. Triple Limpt: 1 Husporkaya (Rus) 14.63m. 2 A Harcon (OB) 14.38; 3 N Hayubora (Rus) 14.22.

Basketball

Orlando Magic fired their coach, Bhan Hill, yesterday, less than two seasons after he led the team to the NBA Firsts. NBA: Washington 95 Miscaulee 93 Ceveland 109 New Jerse; 101; Indiana 105 Toronto 103; Charlotte 124 Orlando 110; Houston 127 Aldrat 98; Seath 113 Bosson 108; Vancouver 95 Dales 100.

Cycling
RITA DEL SOL Third stage (159km, Lucene
to Jeen, So) Leading places: 1 G Salmeron
15oh Saeco Ahr 15min 16sec; 2 E Zabel (Ger)
Tolos em +9sec; 3 J Museeuw (Bel) Mapet;
4 D Eneboma (So) GNCE; 6 E Vestcheslav (Rust
US Portal: 6 A Bugallo (So) Eurskod; 7 F Coreco (So) Toscat; 3 H Daz (So) GNCE; 9 P Faraijin (Bel) Lotto; 10 M Zamabene (So) ONCE
all same time. Overall standings: 1 Zabel
11hr 23mm 378ec; 2 Museeuw, 3 A Cartomen
(B) Saeco; 4 Enebarts; S F Andres (US) Coffs;
a Daz; 7 a Fernance: (So) Euskad; 8 J Ramon Unarte (So) Banesto; 9 W Peters (Bel)
Mape; 10 M A Pena (So) Banesto all same
time.

Stan Pearson, who scored Manchester funted's FA Cup winning goal in 1948, has died at the age of 78 in an Alder-ley Edge nursing home. The United and England stinler made 345 appearances England striker made 345 appearances and scored 149 goals during a career which spanned World War II. He made eight appearances for England and scored live times for his country. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, has been inted £100 by the Scottish Football Association after appearing before

SPORTING DIGEST

its general purposes committee in Glasgow yesterday. Burns had been sum-moned to explain comments made in September and December which were crocal of match referees. The Birmingham City goalkeeper, Steve Sutton, and their midfielder Steve Castle both face knee surgary, while another midfielder. Paul Tart, and their striker.

Kevin Francis, are still recovering from similar operations. The Spanish First Division side Ravo Vallecano have first their coach Paquito Garcia less than 48 hours before meeting Real Madrid. After a good start to the season Paquito has seen his side take just one point from a possible 18. Fernando Zambrano, the club's new

coach. will have to fight not just rele-gation but also take on Real Bets in the Spanish Cup quarter-finals. NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE UNDER-21 TEAM (Representative match v Italy Serie 3 Under-21 XI, Luig Ferraris Sta-dium, Genoe, tonighti; Mershtell (Norwch). Nills (Norwch). Rogers (Rammers), Holdend Berningham, capt). Moues (Barnsley). Serrarit (Oldham). Hamilton (Bradford). Hugher (Wersham). Dyer (Cystal Palace). Bradbury (Partsmouth). Bullock (Barnsley). Substitutes: Davis (Luco); Newton (Charl-ton), Taylor (Bolton). Purse (Ordord Unt). Lawson (Huddersheld). NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE UNDER-

toni, Taylor iBottoni, Purse (Odord Util), Lawson (Huddersteid).
GERMANY SQUAD (Priendly v Israel, Tel Avir, 26 February): Goalkaspers: Köpke Marsetel, Kahr (Bayern Munichi), Beck Meroter Bremen). Defenders: Babbal, Helmer Iboth Bayern Munichi, Kohlec Reuter, Sammer iall Borussa Dormund), Passlack (Borussa Monchenglathach). Schneider (Vill Sturgary, Worns (Bayer Leverlussen), Midfielders: Basles, Scholl, Strunz, Ziege (all Bayern Munich), Bode, Elits (both Werder Bermen), Heinstot, Möller (both Borussa Dormund). Tamet (Karlsruhe), Wosz (Bochym), Forwards: Rantsruhe), Wosz (Bochym), Forwards: Restonif (Iddinese), Bobic (Vill Sturgart), Dunder (Karlsruhe), Herrich (Borussa Dormund), Kirsten (Bayer Leverlusen), Kilmsmann (Bayern Munich).
FA CARLING PROMERSHE Postponed matches Wed 28 Febt Secton v Lakester: Newcaste v Cheisea, Sat 8 Mer; Sheffed Wednasday v Fotterham; Wentbedon v Aston Vills (due to FA Cup Les), Re-arranged frutre: Tue 11 Mer; Backburn v Norangham Forest.
NATIONWEDE FOOTBALL (LEAGUE Post-

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Post-NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL, LEAGUE Post-poned matches: Sat 3 Mars Bouremouth v Chesterfield; Basool Cry v Wiredson (due to Fa Cun best, Re-arranged factures: Sun 2 Mars Sarasas v Cardif 112.0°, The 11 Mars Boumemouth v Chesterfield, The 13 Mars Od-ham v Charlton. The 25 Mars Crew v Bris-tol City; Wiredsom v Brentletd, The 8 April Chesterfield v Wedford, The 15 April Bristol City v Wiredsom, Fri 18 April Ipswich v Nor-wich, Sun 20 April Stoke v Port Vele, The 22

The Italian Grand Pitx is to be held at Monza for another 10 years despite op-cosition from environmentalists. The Monza dry council yesterday extended a commact to hold the Forthula One race on the track inside the city's huge park until 2007. Disputes between envi-ronmentalists and track officials over cut-

Snooker

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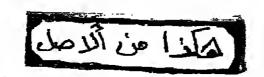
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Marathon woman Keith Elliott on a new chapter in Rosie Swale's story, page 22

sport

Miracle man Guy Hodgson on the saviour of Stockport, page 25

THIRD TEST: Crawley and Cork guide England home after mid-innings wobble despite efforts of New Zealand's teenage spinner

Atherton's monumental dig for victory

reports from Christchurch New Zealand 346 & 186 England 228 & for 307-6 England win by four wickets

History confronted them and history was forced to take a bow after Michael Atherton's team became the second England side, and only the 13th ever, to win a Test by scoring more than 300 in the last innings of the match. Although the victory spoke of a team effort, it was the monumental endeavour by the England captain, who added a century to his unbeaten 94 in the first innings, which engineered the win and with it the series.

It was his 11th Test hundred, and as he has been saddled with the reputation of something of a match-saver, probably his most satisfying. He was asked, soon after his epic to draw the Johannesburg Test, if he thought he would ever better the pathos and splendour of that incredible innings. "I hope so." he said. "I'd like to play a winning knock for England."

Incredibly it is only the second time England have won when he has scored a hundred, the other also coming against New Zealand, at Trent Bridge

The century apart, it was the mind-boggling feat that he had spent almost 27 hours and 408 overs on the field of play before he was finally persuaded to leave. Inevitably it was fatigue, rather than any great sorcery on the part of the howler, that finally led to his downfall as he edged wearily to the wicket-keeper.

"I admired the way he went about his joh," Steve Rixon New Zealand's Australian coach, said. "He was prohably the difference." However, when asked whether Atherton should be given the England captaincy for the Ashes, Rixon smirked and said: "I'd give him anything he wants tonight. He deserves

He is right, and rarely has an England captain's contribution towards victory been so momentous. In fact, only Graham Gooch's monolithic century against the West Indies at Headingley in 1991, stands sidering that about half the higher in the post-war pan-theon of great captain's in-nings. But if quality of life is the book in Atherton's hand - currently Fly Fishing in the West by Ann Voss-Bark then this surely must come of his 57 overs, his duels with

when later asked what it was like to experience a series win abroad, the first since the equivalent tour here five years ago. "I thought it was a strong performance today. I've heen pleased with the way we've played throughout this series. To win 2-0 is fairly convincing and considering we came very close to winning in Auckland, it was probably deserved."

resilient and in two of the three



John Crawley (left) and Dominic Cork (right) begin England's victory celebrations at Christchurch yesterday

Tests (here and in Auckland) they have reversed unpromising situations brought about by

When the final day's play began, they needed 187 runs to win and although with eight wickets standing Ladbrokes had made them 4-7 favourites. it was still a daunting task conday's overs were likely to be howled by Daniel Vettori into the rough outside leg stump.

Rough or not, the 18-year old spinner has been a revelation and if he tired towards the end Atherton - the Cambridge swot "I'm very pleased," he said - versus the bespectacled teenager who looks like one - were

enthralling.
It is what Test cricket is all about, and why, no matter how much razzmatazz is added, oneday cricket can never hope to come close to catching cricket's real essence; namely the chh and flow of protracted personal batties.

England began with the plan robably deserved."

of gaining valuable early momentum, by using the nightwatchman, Andrew Caddick, to

play some shots. In a way, it only half-worked with Caddick scoring 15. And yet how different the day might have turned out, had New Zealand been given his wicket 28 runs earlier, before he had scored.

Pushing forward to the first ball of Vettori's second over of the day, Caddick somehow managed to jam the ball between bat and pad. Sensing an opportunity. Fleming, at silly point, began to move in only to see the ball suddenly drop down. He dived in and caught the ball as it bounced off Cad-

Technically Caddick was out, but with umpire Daryil Hair unsighted, few expected the batsman to be given out. However, according to Fleming, Hair told him the hall was dead as it had lodged fast: a rule that is only meant to apply when the ball gets stuck in clothing or the top

of the pad.

If New Zealand cursed their poor luck on that occasion the severing Vettori.

halance tilted their way when England lost three wickets in 16 balls, two of them to the per-

marathon man himself, who after the ultimate exhibition in Test match application, fell to a crude one-day shot, as he tried to run Astle's gentle medium-pace down to third man. It was the wicket New

Zealand had wanted and it lifted their spirits. Excitement soon turned to delirium when Hussain, having shared an 80-run partnership with his captain, followed four balls later, as Vettori got one to kick out of the rough, via both knee and glove, before nestling

in Fleming's hands at silly point. When Graham Thorpe was out soon after, tamely chipping a return catch to give Vettorthis fourth wicket of the innings, England were 231 for 6, needing another 74 for victory, and looking like going belly up. That they did not was largely due to the two measured innings played by John

Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the English Cricket Board, dismissed talk of Mike Atherton

being named captain for the Ashes series as premature. Lamb praised Atherton for

Crawley and Dominic Cork, who finished unbeaten on 40 and 39 respectively

Over his short career, Cork has been something of a hotheaded disappointment with the bat, but with Crawley to nag him, he played one of his most mature Test innings to date. He prohably counteracted Vettori better than anyone, and after Atherton's precise skirmishes with the bowler, that is high praise indeed. No praise is high enough for the stripling Vettori, however, whose 4 for 97 was

something special to behold. In the Test match here five years ago, it was Vettori's hero, Phil Tufnell, who managed to howl England to victory in quite amazing circumstances. This time it was so nearly Vettori. Let us hope for New Zealand cricket's sake, that is where the coincidences end.

Fighting finishes (most runs made in the final innings

362-7 Australia bt West Indies (Georgetown, 1977-78) 348-5 West Indies bt New Zealand (Auckland, 1968-69) 344-1 West Indies bt England (Lord's, 1984) (Perth, 1977-78) 336-5 Australia bt South Africa (Durban, 1949-50)

332-7 England bt Australia 324-5 New Zealand bt Pakister (Christchurch, 1993-94) 317-2 West Indies bt Pakistar 315-6 Australia bt England (Adelaide, 1901-02) 315-9 Pakistan bt Australia (Karachi, 1994-95) 307-6 England bt New Zealand (Christohurch, 1996-97)

Slow march into pages of history

Andy Farrell waited for the answer to a day of enthralling mystery in Christchurch

As any good Test match should, this Christchurch epic posed ever more intriguing questions as the days went on. Come breakfast on the fifth morning and no one knew what to think. not even at the appropriately named Hambledon Guest

The huilding dates back to 1856, marginally longer than England have been playing Test cricket. In 732 previous matches, the tourists had only once passed 300 in the fourth innings to win, a staggering thought. History would be

made this day.

Possibly by Daniel Vettori.

Could the 18-year-old left-arm spinner, such a dominant figure in only his second Test, really bowl his side to victory? There he was from the start of the day, over the wicket into the rough outside leg stump. Ball after hall. Remix the video and you could have an aid for insomni-

acs, but here it was gripping edge-of-the-seat stuff. Stephen Fleming claimed a catch off Andrew Caddick's boot, but his appeal was turned down. Umpire Darrell Hair countered that the ball was dead. It was as alive as the match. Caddick swung Vettori for a huge six - was the spell

How would Fleming, New Zealand's youngest-ever captain, cope on this day? He removed himself as the only slip and went to short midwicket. Caddick swung Heath Davis's next ball his way. Three down. Nasser Hussain joined Mike

Atherton. As so often, so much seemed to rest with the England captain. Everyone - the crowd, the Kiwis, his team-mates and Atherton himself - seemed to concur. Early on he flashed at Davis and great was the chastisement. The feet were moving, the shot selection, mostly.

ton's innings, Christchurch was Atherton's match. In the unbeaten first innings, his pulling and hooking returned. Now his driving was sublime. Fleming took the new hall and the runs flowed.

Atherton sent Geoff Allott through the covers for four, then backward of point for three. Against Simon Doull, he clipped off his legs for two. drove square to the boundary and straight for three and his eleventh Test hundred.

Lunch at 203 for 3, 102 to gul. Nerves calmed, but need a walk before ingesting. Forty min-utes later and the beef and tomato sandwich is spinning in the stomach.

Atherton gone to the demon snarer, Nathan Astle; Hussain done out of the rough, via a glove, hy Vettori; Graham Thorpe dancing down the pitch and popping his first hall from the spinner straight

'They won't get there now." 231, 74 still needed. John Crawlev and Dominic Cork both new to the middle. Slow progress. Silence, even the Barmy Army wondering and waiting. Astle and Vettori ap-plying the strangle. Tea and 257 the total, 48 needed.

First over back and Cork cut Vettori for four. Confidence growing again. The boundary found more regularly. Vettori, having bowled 34 out of 36 overs at the northern end. finally takes a break and earns a warm appreciation. Two men high on one of the floodlight py-lons, but neither was David Lloyd or Steve Rixon, the re-

Less than 30 needed now, the Barmy Army find their voice again. Still tense, but surely now? The 300 up with a backfoot drive from Crawley, then Cork squeezing Allott to square leg for victory. Two in a row, our cup flows over. "The Ashes are coming home," sang the Barmy Army.
The Australians may not

have let England escape after their poor first two days, but Atherton, the man of the match, seemed determined for the series, and the efforts of the winter, not to be squandered. Of the England skipper.

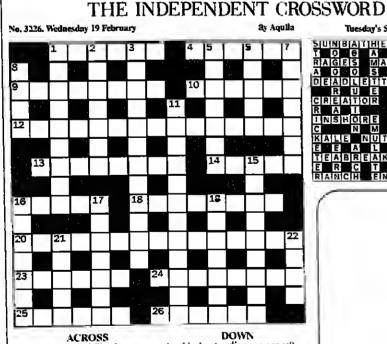
Rixon said: "The way he went about his job was a personal inspiration. I admire that. and all of us.

PHIL TUFNELL UNDER A

CLOUD IN NEW ZEALAND

PEOPLE, PAGE 2

The first to depart was the



Source of stability for Charon on the move (6) Bible book, we hear (6)

Steep, these days, in seagoing environment? (8) 10 Valedictions from Aix. due for overhaul (6)

12 Remote dangeon? Have no part of it! (4.1.1.8)
13 Home counties bowman – or one found in Hunts, say? (8) 14 Rent is low in Adriatic port

16 Early invaders, just settling

around the east ...(5) 18 ... wild obese lot, outmoded now? (8) 20 Figure of Euclid recalling a

lense permutation (7.8) 23 Liable to change? (6) 24 Tonics for musicians (8) 25 Nervous about fall? it's the wine! (6) 26 Bird flying behind Henry

Understanding covenant?

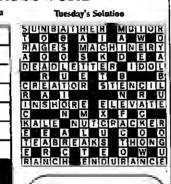
Thessalian horseman, say (7) Cocktail for the square (3-9) Renews flying times (7) Place for puning young? (5) Most seductive east exists in turbulence (7)

Afternoon out, presumably, for running so frenziedly? McGuire sorry about minute cuts in theatres (12) Went to court and threw

light on one kept on campus to Jolts clumsily with two points of elbows (7) Spreading tales, right and left, about the stars (7)

19 Lingfield's first winner is an

apprentice (7) 21 Town in Cumbria with no sidewalk, sav? (5) 22 Rest in peace (4)









is no better man to face Australia, "He's got to captain the side against Australia," he said.

G P Thorpe c and b Vettori

his performance in Christchurch hut refused to commit himself to supporting him for the skip-per's role. I think Mike has shown his resilience and has obviously regained his form with that tremendous performance in Christchurch," Lamb said.

is a little premature to be taking a decision on the captain for the summer series."

England's assistant coach, John Emburey, though, believes that Atherton has proved there "Even if we had drawn or lost today I would hope that he will still have captained the side."

Lamb non-committal on captaincy "But there are five interna-tional matches on this tour. It According to England's coach, David Lloyd, his New Zealand counterpart, Steve Rixon, made a bad error by telling reporters on the fourth evening that Eng-land's players might not be able

to handle the pressure. "Steve Rixon is a lovely chap hut he gave us a terrific spur by saying that we couldn't play un-der pressure," Lloyd said. "l needed to say nothing else than that to the lads before we started the final day."

Christchurch scoreboard

3-1-8-0); Vettori 57-18-97-4 (36-10-63-2, 21-8-34-2); Ceirns 10-1-23-0 (reb1) (40-12-0, 6-1-11-0); Artic 28-10-45-1 (12-7-16-0, 5-0-13-0, 11-3-16-1). (12:7-16-0, 5-0-13-0, 11-3-16-1). Progress: 150: 293 min, 77.1 overs. New boil taken: 89 overs, 182-3, 200: 351 min, 92.3 overs. Lanck: 203-3 (Atherton 105, Nussan 24) 95 overs, 250: 466 min, 124 overs. Tex: 257-6 (Crawley 13, Cork 16) 128 overs, 300: 563 min, 145.1 overs. Atherton's 50: 169 min, 128 balls, 6 fours. 100: 349 min, 264 balls, 9 fours. Unspires: R S Dunne and D 2 Hair (Aus). Men of the match: M A Athenon. ENGLAND WIN BY FOUR WICKERS AND WIN SERIES 2-0.

Oxford's unlikely Italian job

sent their most gifted young men to Oxford to finish their learning - but the practice could be about to assume an unusual dimension.

According to the Nation-wide Football League First Di-vision club; Oxford United, Juventus, the European Cup holders, have had discussions about loaning them some of their most promising young players. However, Juventus officials are doing their best to play down the story.

It is very exciting," said Robin Herd, the Oxford chairman. "They are not just going to send us players. Juventus have managed to combine the traditional technical brilliance of the Continentals with the

Glenn Moore hears a strange tale of

mighty Juventus and a humble English First Division club

power and pace of the British game. They will be showing us how to do it. Manchester United have undertaken something similar, with their coaching staff going to Turin to see how they do things. We are hoping to take it one step further."

The cluh's general manager. Ian Davies, was more circumspect, saying: "At the moment it's still talks about talks." Motor racing is the link in this unlikely deal. Having been in-

volved in IndyCar racing and the March team, Herd is a wellknown figure in the world of Formula One. Much of that, including the Italian Benetton team, is based in Oxfordshire. Juventus, like Ferrari, is part of the Agnelli family empire.

Herd stressed: "Juventus don't want any financial influence. They don't want to interfere in any way with the running of Oxford United." The Italians were less keen to commit themselves, though. Two Juventus directors visit-

ed the Manor Ground on 2 February and spoke informally to Oxford officials - but that, it seems, is as far as it went. A Juventus spokesman, Daniele Boaglio, said yesterday: "It's all wild imagination.

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